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Kohl-Honecker meeting mirrors changing age

RHEINISCHE POST

Two black, red and gold flags flew in front of the Chancellor's Office in Bonn on 7 September, larger than life and deeply symbolic in significance.

Black, red and gold are the colours of the 1848 National Assembly, of Republican Germany.

One of the 60-square-metre flags consisted of nothing but the tricolour, the other had an additional hammer and dividers emblem surrounded by a wreath, the symbol of the German Democratic Republic.

No-one who can recall how the East German flag outraged democrats in the government area of Bonn in the immediate aftermath of the Berlin Wall will fail to appreciate how times have changed.

We Germans have come a long way since 1961: from the Berlin Wall to the day on which Chancellor Kohl officially welcomed East Berlin leader Erich Honecker to Bonn.

Time magazine, which carried facing cover photographs of Helmut Kohl, looking guardedly optimistic, and a smiling Herr Honecker, noted that there were milestones in the world of diplomatic routine that mark a turning-point.

They included Willy Brandt on bended knees in front of the Warsaw ghetto monument in 1970; they also include the first intra-German "summit meeting" in Bonn.

Herr Kohl, as Willy Brandt's successor, will have been neither able nor willing to make a gesture comparable with the former SPD leader's in Warsaw.

Yet Herr Honecker's visit, long prepared and finally upon us, is a political landmark of the kind that makes history.

Nothing has been forgotten that fills Germans on both sides of the border with grief and outrage at their country remaining divided despite an encouraging increase in the number of "human easements."

It is a division sealed since the Berlin Wall was built 26 years ago, the construction of which was, incidentally, organised by none other than Herr Honecker.

He expects his visit to reaffirm the division of Germany, which was a result, but not necessarily a lasting consequence, of Hitler's criminal war.

The Soviet Union might arguably have arrived at a different decision: in favour of the Germans' right to self-determination, for instance.

These points aside, Herr Honecker, 75, deserved to be welcomed, and not so much because he was making what was probably a final, sentimental journey to the Saarland of his youth.

As SED general secretary and East German leader he is the man with whom to discuss the German people's continued existence in two states and the retention of a single cultural nationality.

He is the man with whom these and practical issues of cooperation in many sectors can and must be discussed.

The Federal Republic and its CDU-led government have paid a high price for the privilege. After Herr Honecker's visit to Bonn, it will be even harder to make West Germany's legal and political objections to East Germany clear, both at home and abroad.

Will not the two men's smiles, flashed by newsmen all over the world, be taken to signify normal relations in a civilised world? Will others not feel they can finally forget the tiresome *querelles allemandes* and the German Question? No. The German Question has not, despite appearances, been answered. Herr Honecker was clearly told that representatives of the free and constitutionally governed Federal Republic do not regard the Wall and barbed-wire emplacements that symbolise East Germany as history's last word on the subject. As Willy Brandt put it in 1972, "the two German states (are) not foreign countries for each other."

It was the most difficult visit a Bonn Chancellor has ever had to handle. One can but hope that all concerned invariably appreciated the importance of the manner in which Herr Honecker was hosted.

It had to bear in mind the feelings of the many people on both sides of the intra-German border who came to the West as refugees, served time in prison or labour camps in East Germany and lost members of their families there.

Media coverage of the Honecker visit may be extensive, but that mustn't be equated with goodwill toward the system the SED general secretary stands for.

Yet his visit calls for and deserves the greatest attention.

Joachim Sobotta

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 5 September 1987)

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Honecker (left) and Kohl in Bonn. (Photo: dpa)



Mathias Rust and mother in Moscow. (Photo: AP)

Four years for Rust, the Red Square flier

The four-year labour-camp sentence handed out to Mathias Rust, the 19-year-old West German who flew an aero-club Cessna to Moscow in May and landed it in Red Square, is being described in West Germany as harsh.

But it was to be expected. The prosecution had called for eight years and Soviet courts have never delivered sentences of less than half the prosecution's demand.

Red Square stands for Russian patriotism largely regardless of political views, just as the Kremlin symbolises Russian, and not just Soviet, tradition.

The teenage aviator did not realise until it was too late what the upshot of his action would be. As an over-sensitive brooder, he did not even properly discuss his ideas with his own family.

He mapped out for himself a world apart from reality. Not too far apart; he is too intelligent for that. But far enough to wildly overestimate himself and imagine that the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, might be prepared to discuss with him his childlike vision of a perfect society.

Yet this strange immunity to doubts as to himself also helped. It was absolutely incredible how calm and collected he was, looking even younger than his age, 19, at a trial that might well have broken others.

Mathias, his mother said at the trial, had always been adult for his age. He had always been able to order his ideas before he could really understand them. He knew where to pigeonhole facts even before he could really grasp their meaning.

Therein lies the secret of his flight to

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Diplomacy gets a break as Geneva missiles talks get results

Diplomacy has come into its own again now US and Soviet negotiators have almost reached agreement at the talks, held in Geneva since 1981, on the abolition on medium-range missiles.

The intervening period was one of long years of a bitter missile modernisation debate in which Moscow hoped and Washington feared that civic protest on the streets of Western Europe might prevent the West from stationing Pershing and cruise missiles.

There was also a period, from the end of 1983 to the beginning of 1985, when the two sides were no longer on speaking terms, with Soviet diplomats walking out of the Geneva talks in ill-will.

Then came a surprising series of Soviet concessions under Mr Gorbachov in the process of which the Soviet Union almost entirely accepted the West's 1981 proposals.

The treaty is not yet perfect. The heads of the two delegations in Geneva, America's Maynard Glitman and Russia's Alexei Obukhov, know from bitter experience that obstacles may litter the home straight.

Mr Obukhov has for years been one of the select band of Soviet disarmament experts. A tall, unemotional man who speaks polished English, he learnt his trade at the Salt talks in the 1970s and has a reputation for being a tough negotiator with no great gift of imagination.

His opposite number, Mr Glitman, arrived in Geneva at the zero solution's zero hour in 1981 as deputy to Paul Nitze; he has headed the US medium-range missile talks delegation since 1985.

He too is an experienced diplomat and tough negotiator, but he has never seen diplomacy as a mere postman's job. He has sought to lend impetus to the negotiations in Geneva and the decision-making process in Washington.

Mr Glitman is proud to feel that his urging was instrumental in ensuring that America was able to submit its zero option treaty draft in Geneva at the very moment Mr Gorbachov cast over board the ballast of earlier Soviet preconditions last March.

DIE ZEIT

The delegations now meet daily, chaired by the two ambassadors, either at the US mission on the Route de Pregny or at the Soviet mission on the Avenue de la Paix.

The two sides have long dispensed for the sake of disarmament with their summer and autumn recesses, and a joint treaty draft is expected in the next fortnight.

Secretary of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze should then be able to clarify the last points of dispute when they meet in Washington.

Time is short but the outlook is promising. Now Bonn has agreed to phase out the Bundeswehr's Pershing missiles only one major obstacle remains to be settled in Geneva.

It is verification, or how the two sides' loyalty to the double zero treaty can adequately be monitored.

Verification is a problem as old as arms control. What use is the best treaty if parties to it can default with impunity and without fear of being discovered, let alone brought to task?

Today's satellites with their infra-red eyes and electronic ears may penetrate terrestrial veils of military secrecy, but enough hideaways remain for those who need them.

President Reagan and his supporters have repeatedly declared verification to be the crucial yardstick of arms control.

They accused the Soviet Union, usually with incomplete evidence, of breaching its treaty obligations.

Arms limitation in space or a ban on all nuclear tests were ruled out from the start on account of allegedly insurmountable verification problems.

At the end of last year President Reagan threw into the diplomatic dustbin the Salt 2 agreement that had unofficially limited the strategic arms race between the superpowers since 1979 even without having been formally ratified.

He argued that the Soviet Union had repeatedly disregarded Salt 2 provisions. The Reagan administration would be concluding no disarmament treaties that did not ensure effective verification.

The administration's first test case is now in the offing. It is the zero solution treaty on medium-range missiles.

About 1,700 nuclear warheads and carrier weapons are to be scrapped all over the world, including 1,400 Soviet warheads. It will be the first treaty in the history of arms control that bans an entire superpower arms category.

Is President Reagan able and willing to insist on the verification standards he himself has escalated?

Until recently this seemed a doubtful prospect. But three developments have since occurred, taking the edge off verification problems to the extent that the Geneva delegations can handle them.

First, the Kremlin has largely surmounted under Mr Gorbachov its deep-seated dislike of reconnaissance on Soviet territory.

In January 1986 Mr Gorbachov said: "Control of arms due to be scrapped or limited could be ensured by both national, technical means (such as satellite reconnaissance) and by on-the-spot inspection.

"The Soviet Union is prepared to reach agreement on any extra control measures that may be deemed necessary."

Later last year the Soviet Union conceded for the first time ever, at the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures, that Western and neutral countries were entitled to make limited spot checks in Soviet territory without prior permission.

Second, verification has been made much easier since the Soviet Union agreed, at the end of July, to a worldwide ban on medium-range missiles.

Previously the Soviet leader wanted to keep 100 nuclear warheads and SS-20 missiles in Asia, agreeing to the United States retaining a similar number of missiles.

But a total ban, as the Americans have constantly noted, would make far fewer controls necessary than a mere limitation in numbers.

There would no longer be any need to check how many missiles each side tests, modernises and manufactures. Missile tests, modernisation and manufacture would all be banned.

Constant spot checks to distinguish between permitted and prohibited arms would no longer be needed.

Third, practical considerations have again poured water into the wine of verification ideologists in Washington.

The Americans, unlike the Russians, are still prepared to allow the other side access to their missile manufacturing facilities, whereas Soviet delegates have only been prepared to permit inspection of special "exhibition areas" outside the factories.

The Pentagon is wondering which is more important: domestic secrecy or unlimited access to Soviet facilities.

This weighing-up of pros and cons has been partly the reason why the United States now no longer insists on inspection of entrances and exits at manufacturing and maintenance facilities.

Even so, the verification agreement that now seems likely in Geneva will be more comprehensive than anything that has been customary in arms control in the past.

If the proposal tabled by the Americans is accepted, shorter-range intermediate missiles (Soviet SS-12s and SS-22s) will be phased out in one year and longer-range systems (Pershing 2s, cruise missiles, SS-20s and SS-4s) in three years, both all over the world.

Modernisation, manufacture and testing of these missile categories will be banned. Each side will notify the other where its maintenance and production facilities are, how many warheads and missiles are stockpiled there and what technical specifications they have.

These data will then be checked on the spot by the other side's inspection teams, as will the scrapping of the missiles.

As long as the scrapping of missiles and warheads has not yet been completed at specified bases in Europe and Asia either side will be entitled to verify at short notice that the treaty provisions are being observed, sending in inspection teams to make spot checks.

Spot checks will thereafter be permitted for an unlimited period in accordance with a quota system (numbers of checks not yet having been agreed), but only on the territory of the two superpowers.

The Soviet delegation in Geneva has yet to reply to these proposals. Its official position is still the old demand for access to and verification at US bases all over the world.

The experts warn against euphoria, and other issues remain to be solved.

Within what period and at what rate are missiles to be phased out? The Americans insist on the Russians disarming faster because Moscow has many more missiles to scrap.

The Russians, in contrast, first propose to scrap nuclear warheads, then take their time over scrapping the missiles. The Americans rightly argue that this is unacceptable — because it cannot be verified.

How are cruise missiles to be included in the treaty, bearing in mind that they resemble unmanned aircraft and can be launched from land, sea or air?

Roughly 200 land-based cruise missiles are stationed in Western Europe and due to be scrapped. But how is a system to be scrapped that forms part of a weapon family?

Washington argues that it must be enough for the launching pads to be scrapped, as they are used solely for the land-based variety.

Moscow can thus only be entitled to make sure these launching facilities are not manufactured. It will not be entitled to inspect cruise missile production facilities.

It remains to be seen whether the Russians will accept this argument, but as they have various categories of cruise missiles of their own, they would be cutting their own throat by refusing to do so.

How is the distinction between medium-range missiles (up to 5,500km) and intercontinental ballistic missiles (over 5,500km) to be verified?

How is a party to the treaty to be prevented from circumventing the ban on testing new medium-range missiles by saying its new missiles are strategic systems?

Salt 2, which banned the introduction of more than one new strategic system would have helped in demarcation. President Reagan wilfully scrapped it, so it is now for the diplomats to work out a solution.

Yet despite these residual difficulties the outcome is clear. The terms of a double zero treaty will soon be agreed. The end of a long tunnel has almost been reached.

Politicians have eliminated the major obstacles, leaving Mr Glitman and Mr Obukhov and their staff to flesh out the remaining white spots in the treaty text with constructive obduracy in the weeks ahead.

There would then be no further obstacle to a late autumn summit meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov.

Their longsuffering Geneva diplomats could then take a well-deserved break.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 4 September 1987)

Continued from page 1

Moscow — and the contradiction between his formal classification as a hooligan by the Soviet authorities and the impression of being a mother's boy he was bound to convey to Western eyes.

His tale is basically a very human one, that of the misdevelopment of a young man for all manner of reasons, including *home life and school.*

He went on to become a political *cause célèbre* who triggered staggering repercussions in the Soviet Union, casting doubts as to the efficacy of Soviet defences and threatening for weeks to upset relations between Bonn and Moscow. The solution must inevitably be a political one, to be reached at a time in keeping with the Soviet desire not to lose face but simplified by the clear lack of any espionage link.

Will the Rust case then still be considered a sensation worth a small fortune to the popular press? Probably not.

Rust is neither a hero nor an attractive madmnan. He is an overwrought loner who committed a pointless act and must now pay the price for maturity enforced by the ensuing clash with reality. It is a test he will survive. *Hans-Joachim Deckert*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 5 September 1987)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

CSU boycotts coalition party talks

The Bavarian wing of the conservative party, the Christian Social Union, has pulled out of coalition talks in Bonn.

Its immediate aim is to show its opposition to the decision by Chancellor Kohl, a member of the Christian Democrat wing of the party, to offer to give up the 72 German Pershing missiles if the superpowers reach an arms deal in Geneva.

In a 1976 resolution called the Kreuth resolution, the CSU threatened to pull out of the joint CDU-CSU parliamentary party in the Bundestag. But the resolution remained no more than a threatening gesture.

So it is hardly surprising in this case that the reasons being given for the present CSU rebellion are creating more interest than the decision to boycott the talks itself.

It is clear from a statement issued by the party that a gesture aimed at public impact is the aim rather than anything else.

The party has no intention of doing anything that might have far-reaching consequences.

It is being particularly careful to avoid threatening to end the conservative union in the Bundestag. That would only pave the way for rivalry at the federal level between the two conservative wings of the party.

This voluntary self-restraint by the CSU also says a great deal about its assessment of the balance of power between the CDU and CSU.

There has been a shift in power away from the CSU since the days of the Kreuth resolution.

Helmut Kohl is no longer leader of the opposition but Chancellor in Bonn. Franz Josef Strauss, the only politician who could lead the CSU into the federal arena with any serious chance of success, is now over 70.

If Strauss were even to hint at the possibility of a CDU-CSU split he would run the risk of being "encouraged" by the CDU to act instead of merely threaten.

This, however, he could not do. He knows this and the CDU leadership knows it too.

The decision by the CSU to stay away from coalition talks indicates just how unable the CSU is to take appropriate steps in the dispute.

Symbolic gestures are all that remains.

Even allowing for the importance of this aspect in West German politics the statements in the CSU paper on the Bonn government's disarmament policy should not be overlooked.

Their significance goes beyond the immediate bone of contention, namely Chancellor Kohl's willingness to sacrifice Germany's Pershing 1A missiles for the sake of a double zero superpower deal.

In its paper the CSU raises fundamental objections, not only against the inclusion in negotiations of the 72 "German" missiles and not only against the double and single zero solutions, but also more generally against the conceptual approach of trying to remove the arms rather than the tensions which lead to armament.

Here, however, lies the rub: in view of the fact that the CSU shares the responsibility of government as a coalition party in Bonn the paper is tantamount to a self-accusation.

The paper uses the word "unacceptable" to describe what will undeniably be the consequence of a double zero solution, namely the division of the alliance into three zones with varying degree of safety.

First, the Federal Republic of Germany faced by the then remaining 1,300 nuclear short-range missiles with a range of up to 500 kilometres on the eastern side; second, the other European alliance partners with a much less pronounced threat and in some cases with their own (remaining) nuclear weapons; third, the United States and Canada, whose risk vis-à-vis the Soviet Union remains low due to the nuclear balance of power.

The CSU paper gives a drastic appraisal of the possible scenario: "The alliance would lose its meaning. The result would be an automatic reorientation of German policies".

The paper also emphasises that the problem cannot be solved by extending the zero solution to nuclear short-range systems and battlefield weapons, since this would only increase Soviet superiority in the conventional field.

Political security, the paper adds, cannot be achieved by changing the number of missiles, but only by changing Soviet policies.

Although this is undoubtedly true new questions emerge.

Doesn't the CSU realise that its accusations can easily backfire and provoke the question why it has supported Bonn's policy so far?

Are the statements made by the CSU compatible with its previous role in Bonn?

Is this another case of hot air or will the consequences be more serious? An end to foreign policy common ground within the coalition perhaps?

These are awkward questions and the CSU will have to find some answers if it wishes to retain its credibility.

What is more, the party set itself a demanding yardstick for its activities by making a reference in its paper to Bismarck's remark that errors made in the field of domestic policy can be put right at great cost, whereas errors in foreign policy can only be corrected, if at all, at a very late stage and via considerable effort.

Karl Feldmeyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 September 1987)

Compromises forced by FDP at heart of dispute

The quarrels between the CDU and CDU are a test of the cohesion of the conservative union at a time when it is not under undue pressure from opposition parties.

After five years of the Kohl/Genscher government in Bonn, it has become more than clear how great the pressure is to sustain continuity at home and in external relations.

It is equally apparent that the possibilities of making radical political changes many right-wing voters hoped for when Helmut Kohl was elected Chancellor are limited.

The more the FDP establishes itself as the party of continuity, moderation and the political centre, the more difficult it becomes for the CDU and CSU to integrate its different political wings.

As the FDP's election successes have boosted the party's self-confidence, the conservative parties in the Bonn coalition are being forced to accept compromises.

The logical result of such compromises is that the conservative parties can no longer count on the unreserved support of many otherwise loyal voters, since their ideas cannot be translated into new policies.

Although the CSU may regard itself as the custodian of truly conservative values, it is and will remain a Bavarian party.

It has again experienced how little leverage it has to push through its own ideas in the Bonn coalition.

An opting out of the coalition would be difficult to explain to CSU supporters and would inevitably lead to the setting up of a Bavarian CDU and the loss of the CSU's monopoly position as a conservative party in that *Land*.

In other words, party-political considerations prevent the CSU from soaking up all those conservative voters disappointed by the Bonn coalition but not willing to vote for the opposition parties.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that "The Republicans", an extreme right-wing grouping, is seizing the opportunity to fill the gap.

It was in the CSU *Land* of Bavaria of all places that this group managed to get three per cent of the vote following its first campaign in a state election.

Even though it didn't campaign during the general election the conservative union of CDU and CSU suffered its worst election showing since 1949.

It looks as if the coalition with the FDP is the only road to power, even though it costs a few votes.

For the course of German politics as a whole the fact that Herbert Czaja, the president of the exiles federation, is no longer a member of the CDU regional executive in Baden-Württemberg is, admittedly, insignificant.

For the CDU, however, it is important that Czaja has not heeded the come-and-join-us calls of The Republicans, but has remained loyal to the CDU.

The composure with which Baden-Württemberg's Premier Lothar Späth (CDU) looks down on the new right-wing party, however, is exaggerated.

The state elections in Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen will show how disappointed farmers, the angry jobless and embittered exiles' vote, if they bother to vote at all.

In the next state election in Baden-Württemberg in April next year The Republicans could quite easily get one or two per cent of the vote, votes which Premier Späth desperately needs if he wants to retain his party's absolute majority.

At the end of the 1970s not a single member of the Bundestag came out against nuclear energy or missile deployment — some supported both, others were obliged to state their support to demonstrate solidarity with SPD Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

After the SPD lost what was traditionally regarded as its section of the electorate, the young, the arrival of the Greens was no more than a logical development.

Admittedly, today there are no mass demonstrations against the Kohl government.

But no-one in the Bundestag says what the farmers are thinking.

No parliamentarians voice their protest against Erich Honecker's visit to Bonn, no conservative articulates his mistrust of the Soviet Union or even the USA.

The Germans are criticised as troublemakers as soon as they try to assert their own interests.

The insoluble abortion problem, the difficulties of living together with foreigners, the problem of political asylum or the fight against terrorism are issues which are often discussed over the heads of large sections of the electorate.

Aids is a typical example for the fact that no-one in the Bundestag voices the fears of the population, which explains why it has been left up to the Bavarian state secretary Gauweiler, for example, to say what many West Germans think.

Popular sentiment which has not been catered for by existing political parties will always find some other outlet.

The Republicans currently lack sufficient financial backing and adequate organisational structures.

However, a look at the sitution in France suffices to show how large the potential for right-wing movements is.

Franz Josef Strauss (CSU) and Helmut Haussmann (FDP) at least agree on this. *Adrian Zielcke*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 September 1987)

Alarm as CDU looks toward the 'new intelligentsia'

CDU business manager Heiner Geissler has called upon the CDU and CSU to do more to increase their appeal to new electoral groups.

If his demand set out to cause a row in Bonn, he has succeeded.

The idea that the CDU might move away from its traditional and predictable course has alarmed the headquarters of all political parties. The CSU, FDP and SPD have all warned Geissler against such ideas.

In a special strategy paper FDP business manager Helmut Haussmann even questioned the continuation of the coalition.

The background to Geissler's shrill remarks is the realisation that a growing electoral group which could be called the "new intelligentsia" is becoming more and more significant in the Federal Republic.

Members of this group have a low opinion of traditional values and bonds. They are flexible, efficiency-minded, keen on earning a lot of money, but also interested in having enough time to spend it and enjoy themselves.

Most of these generally younger people are receptive to new technologies. Any party wishing to win elections in future will have to take the "new intelligentsia" into account when elaborating a campaign strategy.

This explains why the CDU, CSU, FDP and SPD are already vying for its support.

If the CDU/CSU wins the race for its ability to form political majorities would be strengthened.

The SPD, on the other hand, can only hope to win over a small section of this group. As for the FDP the campaign for a new chunk of the electorate is a make-or-break matter.

If it can attract a large number of new voters from this group the party may be able to top the 10 per cent mark in future elections.

If it loses the race, however, the FDP may have to start worrying about its parliamentary existence.

Martin S. Lambeck

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 2 September 1987)

■ DEFENCE

Huge airlift of GIs for Euro war-games

More than 30,000 American troops have been flown to West Germany from the United States in the biggest airlift since the Second World War. They are taking part in war games in north Germany. Why so many? Heinz-Joachim Melder reports for Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger.

US three-star General Grosbie E. Saint recently distributed a 200-page brochure in Fort Hood, Texas, to teach his troops how to be on their best behaviour in Germany.

In restaurants in Hildesheim and Hanover they were to wish their neighbours "Guten Appetit" at table and never to be more than five minutes late when visiting a German family.

They were only to call German families on the telephone between 11 a.m. and midday on Sundays; after 3 p.m. noone would be there to answer it anway as the family would have cycled off into the woods for an outing.

GIs are taught never to photograph or film demonstrators. They are taught how to behave when asked to take a blood alcohol test.

They are also reminded always to report immediately to their commanding officer any suspicious vehicles with Warsaw Pact registrations.

These briefings are all part of the autumn *Reforger* manoeuvres in north Germany, as part of which 31,000 US servicemen have been airlifted across the Atlantic.

Their home bases are in the Texas dustbowl between San Antonio and Dallas, an area General Saint calls "the largest military camp in the free world" and one of his men dismisses as "the lousiest dump in the United States."

Reforger has for 20 years been the clearing area for Nato reinforcements in an emergency. The exercises have been held every year since 1967, with a special premiere this year.

In the past, GIs have been flown over to bring forces stationed in south Germany up to full strength. This year they were out in force for the first time in north Germany.

New units were set up. 3 Corps, based in Fort Hood, saw for the first time the theatre where Nato envisages action in an emergency. That was why 31,000 reinforcements, the most yet, are taking part.

The reinforcement target has changed too. Reinforcement of existing US units in south Germany has been practised for decades, bringing to full wartime strength US forces there for forward defence.

This year completely new full-strength units have been set up for a few weeks in north Germany, practising "first-wave" German and Allied troops being able to offer resistance to Warsaw Pact forces for 10 days at most.

Reinforcements are to be mobilised solely in the United States for this particular part of Nato contingency planning.

In the event of an emergency it would be for the Americans to airlift to north Germany, ready for action within 10 days, the US 3 Corps, which is normally cleaning machine guns and drilling at 35 degrees in the shade.

In south Germany the corresponding programme is under way at the same time, but with French and not American reinforcements moving into position.

As the Certain Strike manoeuvre takes place up north, down south light mobile French reinforcements move in. In the Saucy Sparrow manoeuvre 20,000 French servicemen are put through their paces alongside 55,000 German troops.

As the French do not take an active part in Nato, any connection between the two manoeuvres is officially denied. But both serve the same purpose: how to mobilise reserves and send reinforcements into the combat area in an emergency.

Attention is given to what problems might arise and how they could be solved. Well over 100,000 servicemen, half German, half Allied troops, will take part in the two exercises, held in West Germany early this month.

General Saint, who not only knows his way round the remoter areas of Texas but also sees the Federal Republic as his second home, warned German motorists from a distance of over 10,000km.

Military transports, he said, would hamper traffic on German autobahns. He well knows that many Germans will wonder why, at a time when everyone is talking about peace, detente and disarmament, this airlift of troops across the Atlantic on a scale unprecedented since the Second World War is necessary.

General Saint poses no questions in public and is not plagued by doubts on what are political issues.

But he knows that American soldiers must do nothing that might make Germans feel ill-disposed toward them. All German mayors have been briefed on manoeuvre planning and the German police have also been consulted.

At the premiere in north Germany the efficacy of the wartime host nation support programme will be tested.

This fairly recent treaty facility provides for German support to help incoming US forces ensure their combat capability.

3 Corps are bringing with them from Fort Hood nothing but their rifles. Heavier equipment is mothballed in the Federal Republic and is being assembled on the spot for active service.

Tanks and other equipment are at the ready in North Rhine-Westphalia, so that between the end of August and mid-September, when the manoeuvres are due to start, mothballed arms and equipment are being oiled, checked and taken over by the Americans before being moved into position.

The Americans are also bringing with them modern Apache helicopters at which Bundeswehr units will cast envious glances.

The Germans and French are engaged in a joint bid to emulate what this US helicopter can do, including its night combat capability.

The proposed European anti-tank helicopter may not even be as good as the Apache. It will certainly be more expensive and not available until the 1990s.

On being shown the Apache in action at Fort Hood, German observers noted that the helicopter could be bought at less expense from the Americans, with Germans then having a say in its further development, which is already under way — and airborne — in the United States.

Whoever may have described life in Germany for US servicemen in the 200-page manual, in parts it sounds thought-provoking, in part amusing. German

Continued on page 5

French and Germans hold combined manoeuvres

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

In spring last year the Bonn and Paris governments agreed to organise the first-ever large-scale joint military manoeuvre between the West German and French armies.

The original plans for an autumn manoeuvre in Baden-Württemberg by the Bundeswehr alone were scrapped.

This left the military organisers, who normally have two to two-and-a-half years to piece together manoeuvre plans, with just over a year to draw up a new set.

The German members of the team of military staff preparing the operation, for example, Major Peter Müllem of the II Bundeswehr Corps in Ulm, have been so far impressed with the success of close Franco-German collaboration.

The exercise, "Cheeky Sparrow", which will take place around Augsburg, will have on manoeuvres together for the first time a Bundeswehr corps and a French corps as well as the *Force d'Action Rapide* (FAR, Fast Strike Force).

Altogether, 50,000 German and 20,000 French soldiers will be taking part. Roughly 20,000 wheeled and 30,000 tracked vehicles will be used.

The manoeuvre is not a Nato affair, even though Nato's commanders-in-chief have of course approved the operation. (France is not a member of the military arm of Nato).

This was explicitly confirmed by the overall head of the joint exercise, the general commander of the II. Corps in Ulm, lieutenant-general Werner Lange.

It's been a long time since French troops carried out joint exercises on such a large scale with Nato troops.

The FAR, for example, was solely intended by its "creator", the former socialist French defence minister Charles Hernu, as a reserve striking force.

Entire

As Lange explained, the FAR, which has so far only operated in Chad, Lebanon and French Polynesia, still has to be familiarised with the "alliance way of thinking".

This is one of the major intentions of Cheeky Sparrow.

Both sides have meticulously worked out how to avoid any problems because of the different status of the troops in the Nato alliance.

The FAR stays under French command until it reaches its deployment positions near Stuttgart on 21 September.

The French First Army will then hand over command to the II Corps of the Bundeswehr.

General Lange will then be in charge of the FAR and the back-up II French Corps throughout the entire manoeuvre and FAR will take command of a Bundeswehr tank brigade.

So both armies will be able to give orders to and command units in respective armies.

It is hoped that the manoeuvre will give soldiers an insight into the communications systems and channels, the command structures and the varying tactical signals and codes used by their partners.

After all, what is the use of joint manoeuvres between France and Nato troops if the units are unable to collaborate in such a way as to pose a credible deterrent to the enemy?

During the past German and French troops only "worked" together on a large scale under the heel of respective rulers.

The South Germans, for example, endured extreme suffering during the Napoleonic era.

Even during the period in which the French army was still integrated in the Nato structure the collaboration with the Germans was not that close, Lange stressed.

At that time, the Bundeswehr was not properly developed, and the relationship between the two countries was still overshadowed by the experiences of the war.

France, however, is *gradually* beginning to accept the idea of a "common security zone" with the Germans and other Nato member countries.

This explains its readiness to carry out joint manoeuvres and its insistence on greater military collaboration between France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the same time, however, France called for specific objectives for the manoeuvre.

As General Lange explained, the German side willingly complied, taking into account the special situation of its neighbour.

Paris, for example, did not want to give the impression that France was integrating its forces into Nato's forward defence strategy.

The manoeuvre's operational plans therefore, were elaborated in such a way that the allied forces find themselves faced by an "operational crisis" during the first days of forward defence.

The Bundeswehr positions are threatened by an attack by the "Reds". The idea is that the French government then comes to the rescue by deploying its FAR as a strategic reserve and then backing it up with the II Corps.

The underlying intention is to demonstrate to the Warsaw Pact countries that the deployment of French troops can be expected at a very early stage.

It also becomes clear that the line first drawn by Charles de Gaulle beyond which French troops would become involved in a war (Rotterdam — Dortmund — Munich) will be clearly extended (to Regensburg and beyond) during this manoeuvre.

France, however, also insisted that the exercise should not take place close to the Czechoslovakian border — that is, that the "enemy attack" should not come from that direction.

The area near Augsburg, therefore, seemed the best choice for the manoeuvre, the assumed attack being made from Austria.

Lange expects a great deal from the operation. The manoeuvre provides an opportunity to get to know the deployment principles of military partners and to master the provision of logistical supplies.

These are things which are repeatedly practised by the other Nato partners. The joint manoeuvre will boost the feeling in the Bundeswehr that it can count on French support in a crisis situation.

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■ PERSPECTIVE

Russian red herrings scattered across a fashion publisher's trail

The big German publishing houses are running out of room for domestic expansion and are increasingly looking overseas. Bertelsman now does 60 per cent of its business (in turnover terms) outside Germany. Springer is involved in a publishing project in Britain and is on the lookout for other chances; Grüner + Jahr is involved, with mixed results, in France and America. There have been some odd turn-ups: Burda, the firm which this year launched a fashion magazine in Russian with all the hype and ballyhoo of a capitalist event to try and capture an estimated buyer potential of 15 million, is going to have to develop its counter-trade skills. The message is that, instead of hard cash, it will get back dried fruit and smoked herring in tomato sauce. Such can be the price of expansion. In this article for *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*, Franz Wauschkuhn looks at the muscle-flexing of the big publishers.

When the Russian-language edition of the fashion magazine, *Burda-Moden*, was launched in Moscow in March, it was as if the October Revolution had simply not happened.

Beautiful women dressed either in not very much or with un-Russian chic, mingled in the crowds and danced to reggae music and the blues. The launch was accompanied by a massive fashion show.

It was Aenne Burda's day. The boss of the publishing house was showing to an astonished world that the new man in the Kremlin and his charming wife had no objection to capitalist elegance in Dullsville.

This first Russian edition of 240,000 copies is probably only a beginning. Between Leningrad and Vladivostok there is a market for 15 million.

It is still being printed at the firm's German plant in Offenburg because work has not yet begun on a publishing and printing building in the Lianosov district of Moscow.

Officials in the Soviet Light Industries Ministry, however, are optimistic that *Burda-Moden* will, in two or three years, be available at kiosks all over the Soviet Union 12 times a year.

Indeed the joint venture between Aenne Burda and "Vneshtorgisdat" are making publishing history.

But, a Hamburg observer warned that "Burda must first of all build up a new division capable of handling barter trade." State officials are not likely to use scarce foreign currency for a fashion magazine printed on glossy paper.

Their line of approach is: Caucasian dried fruit for patterns for clothes, smoked herrings in tomato sauce for gravure printing machines.

Barter specialists are the ones who will decide over the next few years whether the German fashion magazine experiment in the USSR carries on or is just a milestone along the way.

Hubert Burda, after the breaking up of the family empire the sole shareholder in Burda GmbH of Offenburg/Munich, is looking westwards. Vital knowhow is available in France in plant belonging to the Imprimerie et Editions Braun S.A. in Mulhouse and a new printing works in Alt-Thann is strategically placed close to the Paris-Barcelona and Basle-Milan motorway.

The day may come when Hubert Burda's publications such as *Glücks-Revue*, *Meine Familie & Ich*, or *Das Haus* will appear in French, Spanish or Italian.

In the meantime marketing managers with experience abroad can ask for dream salaries for the the big four in German publishing are very excited at prospects overseas. Even the most calm publishing house in the country, Heinrich Bauer Verlag, Hamburg, has been infected with this enthusiasm.

The Bauer subsidiary in London, H. Bauer Publishing, will launch a new women's weekly in October under the editorship of Dennis Neeld, who is still editor-in-chief of *Women's World*.

Bauer introduced *Women's World* to America and Canada in 1979. When it has a circulation of 1.4 million copies it will be "way out of the red."

The new women's magazine will be printed at the beginning in Cologne. Later the printing contract will probably be placed in Britain.

The magazine *Maxi France* for young women has already increased its circulation from 450,000 to 500,000 copies.

Bauer's French edition of *Playboy* topped the magical half million figure with its revelations about the determined wife of the French extreme-right political leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The circulation figures for the children's magazine *Bussi Bär* in Italy and France are satisfactory and even *TV PLus* in Spain is on the way to its target circulation with 200,000 copies.

Reinhard Mohn of Bertelsmann and his right-hand-man Mark Wössner would only smile in sympathy at these figures. For the past ten years the Bertelsmann empire has been basking in the sunshine of success. Like a huge octopus its tentacles stretch out to media and leisure markets from Berlin's Wannsee to Waikiki, and nothing is safe from this super-concern's purchasing frenzy.

Trade overseas accounts for a good 60 per cent of Bertelsmann's total turnover of DM7.6bn. Profits last year were DM330m and with financing from its own resources of 27 per cent (a good billion deutschemarks) further major purchases abroad are possible.

With this concentration of financial power it is not surprising that the Bertelsmann associate company in Hamburg, Grüner + Jahr, slogs away where Bauer just fiddles about.

The new British weekly *Best*, a sister publication to the Grüner + Jahr *Femme Actuelle*, launched in France in 1984 with a printing run of 1.8 million, was published with a circulation of one million copies.

Best is just one of 36 Grüner + Jahr magazines with a total circulation of twelve million copies that appear in four language regions all over the world.

The secret of their success is simple: a theme such as family, teenagers, the home, the garden or knitting, is selected and a publishing concept is drawn up for the Federal Republic. This is adapted to a greater or less extent in accordance with national and cultural conditions of the respective public abroad.

The project is published opulently in full-colour, but a distance is maintained from all political dispute.

The guiding light in all this is Axel Gans, whose brainchild *Prima* was launched in the opposite direction, however. It is a woman's magazine and was first produced in France and then early in 1986 re-imported in a German version.

Manfred Fischer, former chairman of the Grüner + Jahr executive board, was the first to make tentative steps for major involvement abroad by G + J; firstly a cooperation agreement with a Paris publishing house and then the takeover of Parents Magazine Enterprises Inc in New York.

Then followed *Geo* for America, which became the most expensive flop for the present Grüner + Jahr boss Gerd Schulte-Hillen. It competed with the cheaper *National Geographic* and lost 35m dollars in the process.

But this loss was only a flea bite for Grüner + Jahr with a world turnover of DM2.6bn of which domestic sales accounted for DM1.6bn.

Europe's largest daily newspaper publishing house, Axel Springer Verlag, is at a disadvantage. Christian Herfurth, a member of the executive board said: "Newspapers have national peculiarities all their own and cannot be transposed elsewhere easily."

He said that, in cooperation with suitable partners abroad, Springer would invest direct in markets, not in foreign printing works.

Springer does not have the financial resources of Bertelsmann so it cannot afford to pay out money to gain experience.

A decision has been reached in cooperation with Independent Television Publications, London, in the battle for the programme magazine market.

Auto-Oggi, a licensed edition of *Auto-Bild*, published by Mondadori in Milan, has been a noticeable success in the confused Italian specialist magazine market.

Publications dealing with love stories, romances with doctors and in the forest are brought out by Springer subsidiary *Cora* with the Canadian Torstar/Harlequin Group.

Why all this expansion? Domestically publishers cannot grow any more. The Monopolies Commission has made takeovers virtually impossible, while retail concerns, according to former Economics Affairs Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff, "can drive a coach and four through cartel legislation."

Franz Wauschkuhn

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 28 August 1987)

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housewives are said to find Saturday the worst day in the week because the shops close early

German housewives are always in a hurry, preparing the Sunday joint and baking the Sunday cake while their husbands work in the garden, wash the car or beaver away in the cellar doing repair work.

When US servicemen are invited to visit German families they must, they are told, take care not to bring with them certain "cemetery flowers" or "red roses."

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 29 August 1987)

■ MONEY

Small savers still sceptical about the stock market

SüddeutscheZeitung

When the New York stock exchange boom began five years ago, some were talking about the boom of the century.

The superstitious were predicting exactly that when, on 13 August 1982, of all dates, the Dow-Jones Average reached the magic figure of 777.

And indeed, from then on, the index just went up and up and up until it reached 2,706.

The lucky person to have the right mix of stocks would have multiplied portfolio value three and a half times over these five years. There were similar gains on the world's other major stock exchanges.

Does this mean that the ancient (bourgeois) dream of getting rich without any effort was about to be realised?

For some, perhaps. For those few investors who liked to take risks and who had a good nose for market movements.

But not many were able precisely to predict the maximum margins between the highs and the lows. Most investors hopped round, in and out, from one stock to another in an effort to hit the highs.

The great mass of working people had nothing to do with this whole exercise. For them, it was a glittering but difficult-to-understand world, and they kept well clear of it.

Instead, they put their money in savings, in home ownership or elsewhere where the risks were low, such as savings certificates or fixed-interest-bearing securities.

Only five per cent of West Germans had a share portfolio in 1985 and even in America, where people are more given to taking risks, there were in the same year "only" 36 million shareholders out of a population of 240 million.

Small savers were in good company with their scepticism. The major financial institutions such as insurance companies, pension funds and the remaining members of the Big Money Community let most of their money work in "fixed-interest securities."

Sound stock exchange brokers advised their clients never to place more than between 10 and 15 per cent of their capital in fickle stocks and shares. A poor outlook then for the small saver.

It is a truism to say that all good things come to an end even for big earners. When the speculation fever was at its height they had to bear in mind that events on international markets are not accidental (such as winning lotto numbers or the throw of the dice) but that they are closely related to world liquidity supply and demand, that is influenced by decisions made by central banks.

Every strain and relaxation on the money and capital markets, that are growing faster together all the time, is reflected seismographically in interest rates.

Just as the textbooks would have it the upturn on fixed-interest bonds and securities began in September 1981, almost a year before the rally on the stock market took off.

Conversely we are today perhaps at the beginning of the end of a long period of low interest rates, although there is dispute about this at the moment.

There could be little objection against price rises on financial markets, were it not that in some countries, notably the USA and Japan, prices rises seem to have completely lost touch with productive factors such as earnings ratios, with take-over bids coming to ressemble poker schools out of all relation to share values.

Professor Charles Kindleberger of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology commented: "Behind the bull market there is no boom in industrial investment."

In America over the past five years stocks have increased 250 per cent but there has only been a production growth of 40 per cent (at current prices).

The relationship between share price increases and productivity are rather more solid in the Federal Republic with the Japanese economy slightly less solid.

Under these conditions should one not fear that the black days in October 1929 could be repeated, when equity prices on Wall Street collapsed?

There are two aspects to the answer. Fundamentally it is impossible to have a "self-fed" boom or a strong downward movement in a flexible network of financial markets.

Falling stock and share prices can be a serious problem for national economies, because they not only affect the (paper) wealth, acquired effortlessly, of brokers, jobbers, dealers and gamblers but also investments made by pension funds and insurance companies.

This would be a catastrophe if, as in the early 1930s, this led to mistaken economic reactions, primarily throttling trade by protectionist measures and/or expensive-money policies applied at the worst possible time.

Thank God it has been obvious many times recently that flexibility and willingness to cooperate in close association with the world financial system is beinning to replace the old, fatal, save-yourself-if-you-can philosophy.

Neither the two oil crises nor the worsening of the world debt crisis at the beginning of the 1980s could have been mastered if things were otherwise.

Ilmar Kowalski
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 24 August 1987)

It's a wealthy society — for those who're prosperous

Headlines this summer have regularly declared that the Germans have never been so rich as they are now.

Various surveys indicated that people have monetary wealth of over DM2,000bn, four times more than in 1970.

Sums of between DM82,000 and DM91,800 per household have been quoted — with many people saying that, in that case, someone must have far more than they.

People are saving a lot, but there is some supposition in exactly how much. What is certain is that this wealth is distributed unevenly.

The savings banks association says that there are no grounds to believe that people in this country are well-to-do. Thirteen per cent of households have either no savings at all or their debts cancel out their savings.

On the whole, the richest 10 per cent of households have almost half the country's entire monetary wealth.

This information comes from random sample surveys, which for many are too vague.

But there is no arguing that productive wealth, the ownership of businesses, is concentrated, as always, in relatively few hands.

It is also true that many fight shy of risk and prefer to save for their own home.

The Dresdner Bank estimates that at least DM1,450bn is invested in private homes and land.

It points out that against the DM3,500bn that is put aside in savings and real estate there are debts totalling DM820bn of which DM630bn has been incurred to finance home ownership.

These figures take the shine off the statement of assets and liabilities. According to investigations made by the Bundesbank people are no longer quite so eager to save.

The savings ratio, that is private households' saving in per cent of disposable income, was lower in the first half of the 1980s than in the 1970-1975 period. The reasons can only be guessed at.

Certainly unemployment and the number of people on social security benefits play a role. As a rule they are not concerned with savings.

There is also a shift in the age make up of the population. There are more pensioners, who usually do not have any cash to put aside as they did at the height of their working lives.

They probably do not scrimp and save because the reasons for saving when they were young no longer apply.

Similar influences affect the younger generation. They do not earn much in their first jobs and yet are confronted with many claims on what they do earn.

It could also be that less is being saved because increased wages and salaries are being used to buy consumer goods. More is financed direct from monthly earnings.

People in this country with reasonable assets can see no point in piling thousands of marks upon thousands more.

Others who would like to do so do not have the means (less than ever after the shortening of savings promotion.)

Last year people had disposable incomes of DM1,200bn. Calculated per head of population West Germans are not top of the list.

Figures for 1985 for gross national product per capita showed that not only the Americans, Canadians and Swiss were in front of West Germans, but also the Swedes, Danes and Finns.

International comparisons of this sort should be regarded with caution because of altered exchange rates and purchasing power, but nevertheless we have no reasons for feeling financially on top.

Gerhard Meyenburg
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 August 1987)

■ BERLIN RADIO SHOW

Information and entertainment ride on the digital revolution



Among the most significant exhibits at the Berlin Radio Show were products in the fields of digital audio tape (DAT), compact disc video (CD video), radio data system (RDS), and videotext-programmed video recorder (VPV).

About 350 exhibitors from 23 countries showed off their products in 76,000 square metres of space, or 19 acres, at the foot of Berlin's Radio Tower.

Two tendencies are increasingly apparent. The first is that digital technology is steadily gaining ground over analog technology, with new chip generations making new functions possible, and often at very little extra cost.

The second is the way in which entertainment electronics is increasingly combined with telecommunications.

The TV screen can be used not only to receive television programmes but also for a growing range of data and video-phone services.

Many Radio Show stands highlighted a topical development: digital audio tape. DAT is to the compact disc what the cassette recorder is to the record-player.

The digital recording technique makes the superb quality of CD recordings possible, and digital tape is now available to make recordings of one's own that are indistinguishable from the original.

DAT cassettes are not much larger than a matchbox, yet two hours of stereo music can be recorded on the 60 metres of tape, or four hours of slightly lower LP quality.

Conventional audio cassettes are about twice the size and run tape past the tape head roughly five times faster.

This is offset by a recording technique similar to that of video recorders, which makes DAT recorders fairly expensive.

Fast wind and rewind run at up to 200 times the recording speed, so the title required can be located in a matter of seconds.

DAT has one major drawback: it is too good. Recording quality is indistinguishable from that of the original recording, which is an open invitation to pirate producers.

That worries everyone who has anything to do with music, (except perhaps, the consumer) from composers to recording companies. They don't want DAT.

As a result, satisfactory programme quality will not be available in time for the launching. Digital radio will not reach Europe — by satellite — until early next year at the earliest.

No major recording company plans to market recorded DAT cassettes, for the time being, and negotiations are under way for an electronic spoiler that will make it impossible to copy CDs.

Agreement has yet to be reached, however, and the talks could end inconclusively, with DAT recorders for sale without the electronic "muzzle."

Besides, audio magazines are already testing how easy it is to crack codes of this kind.

Nearly all leading European and Japanese manufacturers had DAT equipment on show in Berlin. What they were unable to say is whether they were able or willing to supply customers before the year's end.

Uncertainty over the electronic spoiler is heightened by uncertainty as to what DAT equipment will cost to buy. DM3,000 seems likely to be about the lowest retail starting price.

At that price there won't be many buyers, especially as CD equipment is selling well.

The first DAT recorders may have German brand names but they will be imported from Japan.

Even Philips had a DAT recorder on show, presumably in keeping with the philosophy that no-one can afford not to be in the running.

Philips are very doubtful whether there is any point in DAT. They are still working hard on a compact disc that can be recorded and erased; it is unlikely to be available before the early 1990s.

The compact disc, unveiled only four years ago, is still the star of the hifi show. It is likely to far outstrip the conventional gramophone record by the latter's centenary.

German retailers alone expect to sell one million CD players this year, as against 650,000 last year, and prices have plummeted dramatically.

The first CD players cost nearly DM3,000. Special offers are now available for less than DM200. A DM500 player has been known to rate best in tests.

It almost looks as though CD players were sold at bargain prices to boost sales of discs, which are still more expensive than conventional records.

A more advanced version of the audio CD, CD video, was unveiled in Berlin. It is a digital video disc.

The video disc is not a new idea, but the analog variety, launched by Philips some years ago, was a flop and has long ceased to be marketed to the general public.

The new CD video players can play four different kinds of disc, first the silver audio CD and the gold video CD single, both 12cm in diameter.

The single plays either 20 minutes of music or six minutes of sound and vision — in other words, a video clip.

The 20cm video disc can be played on both sides, with 20 minutes of sound and vision on each side. The 30cm video disc plays for an hour each side. Philips say the first video CD player should be available from November and cost about DM1,600. The old analog video discs can be played on the new device. A dozen recording companies and roughly half a dozen film companies plan to ensure there is an adequate range of CD video discs available in time for the launch. Polygram, a Philips subsidiary, plans to start with 60 singles from the hit parade, plus a range of classics and pop music on the medium-sized CD, while concert recordings up to 100 minutes long will be available on the 30cm (12-inch) discs.



CD video, a picture of the future. (Photo: dpa)

The CD video single will cost a little more than a conventional maxi. Proposed retail prices are reported to be DM14.80 to DM16.80. Larger discs will cost between DM45 and DM100.

It is hard to say whether CD video will be a hit. *Philips are particularly* hopeful the video clip kids will buy in bulk; discotheques too, of course.

Colour TV celebrated its 20th birthday at this year's Berlin Radio Show. It was launched in 1967 when Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, as he then was, pushed the symbolic button.

Jumbo TV sets are the latest craze. Sets with a diagonal of 70cm used to be the largest on the market; many manufacturers have now introduced 82cm or 85cm models.

They weigh 60kg, which makes them almost lightweights in comparison with the 125kg at which 95cm sets weigh in. They cost roughly DM8,000 and are supplied mainly to hotels and conference centres.

Manufacturers, including aerial manufacturers, are hopeful that satellite-relayed programmes directly receivable by domestic viewers will boost business.

TV-Sat's launching is progressively postponed. The latest deadline is 12 November, but not until some time next year will everyone be able to receive SAT 1, RTL plus, 3SAT and Eins plus with the aid of a small dish antenna.

The aerial is expected to cost DM2,500 for a detached house, but here, as in other sectors, the Japanese may be good for a surprise or two.

Programmes will be broadcast via TV-Sat in a new PAL standard known as D2MAC and featuring digital transmission, better picture quality and up to four hifi sound channels.

This facility will make it possible to transmit programmes simultaneously in several languages.

Multi-standard TV sets on show at Berlin are capable of receiving programmes transmitted in both PAL and D2MAC.

Given the growing digitalisation of TV sets the extra cost cannot be prohibitive. TV-Sat programmes relayed to cable viewers will, incidentally, be converted to PAL in the cable, as it were.

In contrast to jumbo sets, flat screens are making slow headway. Philips exhibited their first LCD colour TV, a mini-set with a 7.5cm diagonal.

It doesn't use a conventional cathode ray tube. *It relies instead on liquid crystal display* — like digital watches and calculators.

HDTV, or high-resolution TV, was on show merely in the shape of a handful of prototypes. It has twice as many lines as standard TV and a larger number of frames per second.

Wide-screen TV is also hailed as a cinema-style experience, but manufacturers have yet to agree on an international standard, so it is unlikely to be with us much before the mid-1990s.

Besides, views differ on whether HDTV is so much better than D2MAC.

Video recording has been progressively simplified. The VPS video programme system makes it possible to record a film screened on TV to the exact second even if the previous programme

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This analog hifi set is valued at 30,000 marks. (Photo: dpa)

■ BUSINESS

Nivea: 75 years of pouring into pores

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Nivea skin cream has been on the market for 75 years — and it is just the same emulsion of fat and water now as it was when it was launched in 1912.

It was developed by a chemist called Oscar Troplowitz, who produced the mixture in a butter churn at his shop in Lokstedt, a Hamburg suburb.

Neither has the packaging changed since, in 1932, it was taken out of a tube and put into a blue-and-white tin.

Today Nivea (the name is derived from the Latin for "snow white") is the most important product made by Beiersdorf AG in Hamburg. Turnover is almost a billion marks a year, a quarter of it in West Germany.

Nivea's success is not due to the once-in-a-lifetime brain-wave of an inspired inventor but more the result of careful marketing over the years, which is something Beiersdorf is renowned for.

Nivea is, like most proprietary brands, a typical product of its period. Marketing boss Hans-Jürgen Prick said it became big business in the years of the Wanderbewegung, when tramping and the outdoors became popular.

"It was when women left the boudoir for the boulevard, when it became acceptable to expose the skin — clean, fresh and healthy skin," said Herr Prick.

Nivea survived the 1920s and the 1930s, although it once seemed that it might be consigned to the pages of history together with that era.

But it flourished to reach its first crisis at the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s.

This was when consumers began to change their values, a development which is obvious today but not so obvious then.

Many comptetitor firms around this time marketed new products in the field. Schwarzkopf introduced "Kaloderma"; Colgate came out with "Palmolive"; and Linger + Fischer linked "Creme das" to the success of a shower lotion.

The strongest competition came, however, from the detergent manufacturer Henkel of Düsseldorf. "Creme 21" in an orange-coloured plastic container was introduced as a competitor product to Nivea, but aiming at the young. It quickly established itself at Nivea's expense.

Hans-Otto Wöbcke, of Beiersdorf's management board, said: "By 1971 it had captured a sizable 12 per cent of the market, half at Nivea's expense."

But that was only part of the challenge. There was a more serious battle going on, not so spectacular and not noticed so much by the public as the competition between Henkel and Beiersdorf.

Herr Prick said that it was the arrival on the scene of special products such as night creams, day creams or creams for dry skin.

"This came in exactly with consumer liberation. Consumers began to demand special items," he said.

For Nivea it was not only a question of defending itself from competing products that claimed to be of equal quality and were getting established on the market, but of maintaining a market that was being totally endangered. Herr Prick again: "We were afraid that consumers would change over to the special products." But increasing competition and the change in consumer habits to products geared up to their demands did not bring Nivea into any real crisis in the short-term. The third element in the situation was an extensive change in trading methods.



Cold, wet and windy. And healthy. (Photo: NIVEA)

The successful introduction of the self-service system into foodstores made it possible for these stores to cut in on the cosmetics and skin care trade of specialist sales outlets. These were the specialist shops that had sold Nivea and to which so much care and attention had been given.

A greater part of the success of Henkel's "Creme 21" was due to the fact that Henkel moved into these new sales methods whole-heartedly.

It was a crisis situation for Beiersdorf in Hamburg. The company's style forbade hectic reaction, although this was the decisive moment for Nivea that until then had gone from success to success.

Beiersdorf commissioned an extensive market analysis. This showed that customers had, as always, considerable confidence in the product.

Herr Prick said: "The Nivea brand was prized by the trade and consumers alike for its good name and quality."

This went so far that consumers were prepared to transfer the goodwill they felt for Nivea to other products with the same brand name. But Prick added that "the brand had become a little old fashioned."

The strategy that developed from this survey was typical of the reserved and measured methods of Beiersdorf marketing.

Consumers obviously accepted the product so nothing was to be changed, not even the packaging. The main aim was to give the brand a new, youthful image.

At this point Beiersdorf executives showed that in time of need they could forget their polite reserve.

Nivea showed its muscle in an advertising campaign that is still remembered in the advertising business and that gave employment to any number of lawyers over a long period of time.

In the campaign each advertisement was published only once because of the immediate legal action taken by the company's competitors.

The general tenor of the advertisements was: we have been producing skin cream for sixty years. If there was a better one we would be producing it.

The success was enormous. Wöbcke commented: "In less than two year Nivea cream had won back its leading position in the market for general and hand creams with about 30 per cent of the market and the newcomers on the market quickly fell back to six per cent."

But that was only a first step. Nivea marketing managers had come to the conclusion from their analyses of the market that in the long-term the total skin cream market would stagnate and an increase in Nivea volume sales would be impossible.

These findings led to the development of a programme that was successful and is still in operation.

The venerable old lady Nivea cream was to get a crowd of children (new products). These would be promoted in just the same way that Nivea had been promoted, by laying stress on *cleanliness* and fitness.

In short the new products would be promoted along the original lines of Nivea's success, an accent on clean, fresh, healthy skin, and the brand name Nivea would be prominent. There was no place for problems in the wholesome Nivea world.

From Nivea's beginnings in 1912 there had been a range of other products. Following the Nivea philosophy new articles were developed. In 1971 and 1972 cautious trials were made with babycare products.

In 1974 the word *Pflege* (Care) was applied to a "Nivea-après-Lotion," a lotion to lessen the effects of too much sun-bathing — agreed not a serious problem.

Two years later a "Creme-Bad" was produced, for bathing had long since ceased to be a weekly event. Many people were now taking a shower or bath daily.

Nivea opened up other market sectors through the trend to greater body care. In 1984 a "Pflege-Shampoo" was launched and a "Pflege" rinse to be used after the daily hair wash.

Last year a range of products for men appeared including a cream for skin care after shaving.

All these Nivea auxiliary products have one thing in common: they are uncomplicated mass products, existing in a wholesome world.

The Nivea philosophy, still based on the youth movement attitudes of the 1920s, does not take into consideration, for example, dandruff in its products for washing hair.

Turnover shows how important the development of auxiliary products, "the children," has been in maintaining the brand name. Within the past ten years the cream alone only increased its turnover by 41 per cent, little more than the price increase over the period.

Growth has been achieved by the range of auxiliary products that increased turnover fourfold and now accounts for almost three-quarters of Nivea business.

But Nivea cream remains the "mother" who has smoothed the way in life for her daughters and who has made sure that they have a good pedigree.

Now it is the daughters who are keeping the mother young. The art of marketing is to teach the daughters not to forget their origins.

Paul Dietz

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 28 August 1987)

Continued from page 7

has overshot the mark by a few seconds. Yet users still have trouble in programming their recorder. So two new systems have been introduced to help make presetting video recorders fail-safe.

One features a stylus used to read a bar code for the programme and feed it into the recorder. The drawback is that few programme magazines print these bar codes, and the instructions for doing it yourself are fairly complicated.

VPV, short for videotext-programmed video recorder, is less of a problem. Videotext is a text information system roadcast in the gaps between the first, second and third programmes of Federal Republic TV. Pages are screened by means of a decoder.

They include pages of programme listings. VPV consists of a video recorder with a built-in videotext decoder.

By remote control the individual programme can be earmarked and the recorder preset. The only drawback is that programme listings are only available for a week in advance.

Motorists seem likely to have life made easier for them soon. The RDS radio data system unveiled in Berlin is to be launched all over Europe.

From next April all stations in the German ARD radio network will broadcast at least one programme linked to the RDS system.

RDS car radios (and ordinary receivers) will then be able to name the programme rather than just the frequency, which should make it much easier to tune in.

On long journeys it will also be easier to keep to one programme; the radio will automatically switch to the best available frequency.

RDS will also feature the same functions as the existing ARI system, which automatically tunes in to news flashes for motorists even if you happen to be listening to a cassette.

Car radios with CD players were on display at Berlin. So were car radios with DAT players. It remains to be seen whether they were merely prototypes or will be available in the shops before long.

Dieter Keller

(Mannheimer Morgen, 28 August 1987)



■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

Makers fight emission problems as buyers shun the diesel motor

Diesel car sales are declining despite the fact that, overall, car sales this year are up. Diesel sales increased meteorically in the 1980s to the point where, last year, they accounted for 27.4 per cent of new cars registered.

But, in the first three months of this year, their share had dropped to a mere 21.9 per cent — and the trend is continuing.

The diesel is economical, but reports that its exhaust gases could cause cancer have obviously put buyers off.

Particles in the gases are being blamed. They have to be filtered out and that means that filters will have to be installed.

Time and money have been heavily invested in particle filter research and development. Progress has been made but filters cannot yet be mass produced.

For the next few years at least, diesel-engined vehicles, especially commercial vehicles, will continue to emit a lot of possibly carcinogenic soot particles.

Last year diesel sales were boosted by car-buyers' environmental consciousness. New models fitted with catalytic converters were said to reduce emission substantially; they were also road tax-exempted.

But few laymen knew the difference between various categories of converter, pollution reduction classifications and Euro-standards.

Who, for that matter, could guarantee that German holidaymakers would be able to buy unleaded fuel in other European countries? Confusion was the rule. A diesel seemed the answer.

Diesel engines easily comply with European emission standards for carbon monoxide, unburnt hydrocarbons and nitric oxides.

That is why they were classified as pollution-reduced and thus road tax-exempted, which was a welcome bonus for the car-buyer.

Times have now changed. Diesel-owners still enjoy tax privileges but the Federal government has been widely criticised for being uncritical of the diesel.

No-one knows how serious the health hazard is, and all that can be said for sure is that the diesel engine, as opposed to the conventional car engine, emits both gas and particles — mainly soot.

These soot particles consist of unburnt carbon and ash and are the result of specific diesel combustion in the engine. They find their way into the lungs via the air we breathe.

They carry with them a wide range of chemicals. Views vary widely on the effect of these chemicals.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Berlin, says particle emission ought, as a health precaution, to be kept as low as possible.

Professor Thron of the Federal Health Office, Berlin, stresses that lengthy research is still in progress on the subject.

Be that as it may, the demand for particle filters is on the increase. Research and development have been under way for years, but many problems are still unsolved.

One is technical in nature. It is how to remove the soot retained in the filter. Failing regeneration, the entire exhaust will sooner or later be clogged and the engine will stall.

The second problem is political. As so often, representatives of the 12 member-countries of the European Community agree only to disagree. That is why there are still no binding European regulations for diesel particle emission.

All there is is a 1975 demand that diesel soot must not obscure vision.

The situation is clearer in the United States, where the statutory ceiling is 0.124 grams of solid matter emitted by a diesel exhaust per kilometre.

In California 0.055 grams is the limit. In the European Community there is talk of a ceiling of about 0.3 grams per kilometre.

Despite the dispute over statutory limits industry has not been inactive in particle filter development. Even without filters 90 per cent of German diesel-engined cars comply with US emission regulations.

This point is stressed by Volkswagen's Erich Ewen. VW works jointly with Audi in particle emission research.

The VW Golf, marketed outside Germany as the Rabbit, and the VW Jetta is equipped with a transmission that complies with US statutory requirements even without a particle filter.

Volkswagen are nonetheless keenly and actively interested in developing a filter for mass manufacture. The problems are said to be political rather than technical in nature.

"Legal specifications are what we lack," Ewen says. Statutory limits would affect the cost, nature and extent of development. "At present," he says, "we are investing heavily on the basis of nothing specific."

That is why Volkswagen are not prepared to forecast when particle filters might go into mass production.

Ford's Friedmann Nusch sounds a similar note, referring to an "enormous

Mannheimer MORGEN

uncertainty for carmakers due to ceilings not yet having been decided."

Even so, Ford engineers are fully briefed for action on any decision that may be reached in Brussels. "Research," he says, "is very intensive and most advanced."

Technical problems remain to be solved for engines of over two litres. Smaller Ford diesels already comply with stringent US standards.

Competition may be fierce in the motor industry and all carmakers may be keen to make a breakthrough with particle filters of their own, but Nusch is convinced that all motor manufacturers have reached roughly the same level of development.

Even Opel, who manufacture a strictly limited number of diesel models, are investing heavily in time and money to develop particle filters.

Various approaches are being tested at BMW too. Which system will make the running? No-one yet knows.

Emission levels under consideration in the European Community are no problem for BMW, but the Munich carmaker feels duty-bound to carry out research into environmentally A1 technologies.

As matters stand, the company would have difficulty in complying with the emission level in force in California, but BMW's Christoph Huss says they aren't interested in the US diesel market.

The same cannot be said of Daimler-Benz, where three-litre turbo diesel cars for the US market are already equipped with a standard particle filter.

This model is specially designed for the US market and unsuitable for European conditions. Higher outdoor temperatures in America's Deep South make it easier to burn out soot that has collected in the filter.

The filter with with US models are equipped also works more satisfactorily because American motorists drive longer distances in a different traffic flow.

"Americans," says Daimler-Benz's Dr Manfred Fortnagel, "are far more patient than German motorists when it comes to technical shortcomings that still occur from time to time."

Dr Fortnagel does not expect a satisfactory solution to emerge for the European market in the next few years, so he is firmly convinced the European Community will specify limits that can be easily met without filters.

Commercial vehicles are another matter; they are almost without exception diesel-engined and their particle emission is far higher than that of a private car.

Particle filters such as might be used in private cars are ruled out on technical grounds for trucks or buses.

The problem is that of getting rid of particles that accumulate in the filter.

With private cars exhaust temperatures can at least help to regenerate the filter, but commercial vehicles run at much lower exhaust temperatures. Unaided, they are sure to run into problems.

Daimler-Benz have shortlisted about 40 possible solutions to this technical problem. A number of Mercedes buses are undergoing endurance trials of experimental particle filters in a number of cities.

Specific findings are not yet available, which is why the research department is not yet prepared to forecast when the particle filter will have reached the stage at which series production is possible.

Klaus-Joachim Kranz of Kässbohrer, the Swabian bus manufacturers, says in contrast that he expects most buses to have filters by 1990-91.

His company are currently working on three filter systems and plan to run the first experimental buses this year.

The sooner the better. Environmental awareness is growing more and more widespread and some local authorities are already insisting on particle filters before agreeing to buy new buses.

Even so, Ulrich Bulang of MAN in Munich feels filters will not be a regular feature until they are made mandatory. His reason is that they make a bus between DM25,000 and DM30,000 more expensive.

MAN are working on an extensive research programme to develop filters for their vehicles, but they too feel they are working very much "in the dark."

Says Dr Bulang: "Our main problem at present is the lack of statutory regulations."

In conjunction with Auwärter, Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz have developed a particle filter system that is already undergoing trials in public transport.

But KHD engineers are mainly interested in particle filters for industrial engines and construction machinery. That, the company says in a press statement, is a "main task for the present."

Just as KHD are collaborating with Auwärter, so many motor manufacturers rely on the collaboration of component suppliers.

Research is in progress everywhere at full pelt because many must lend a hand to keep the difficulties under control.

Günter Beck of Degussa in Frankfurt admits, however, that: "It is only interesting to develop something for which a market exists."

He feels one doesn't yet exist. The logic is simple: no statutory limits, no need for filters.

Degussa are working on a catalytic layer to reduce perceptibly the temperature at which the filter is regenerated. It isn't at all easy, Beck says:

"There is no standard pattern or universal solution; the entire propulsion system needs to be taken into consideration."

Degussa, like Corning in Wiesbaden, are working together with several carmakers. Corning applications engineer Dr Uwe Zink feels the development phase has already been completed.

All that is now needed is to develop overall systems to make their use unproblematic.

Eberspächer in Esslingen are also heavily committed, saying they are much closer to a solution for private cars than for commercial vehicles.

Despite a decade's research Eberspächer are still far from series production of particle filters for trucks and buses, says PRO Herbert Brauch. The company lacks experience in this sector.

The Americans, who set an example with their low statutory ceilings and use of filters, have largely reverted to petrol engines.

But Brauch is enthusiastic about the mutual support between component suppliers and manufacturers. Contacts are very close.

Carmakers also maintain close contacts with Bosch of Stuttgart, where research engineers are following up a different approach. They have devised a particle filter that differs substantially from the usual.

Soot is propelled back into the engine for afterburning and converted into carbon. Yet even this solution is not the idea to end all ideas.

"It can coke up the engine," says Bosch's Eckhardt D. Noelte. Besides, it may not be the most economic solution, as "technically nearly everything is feasible."

Technology is certainly progressing by leaps and bounds. Development engineers are going to great lengths to reduce the burden on our environment as far as possible.

What is lacking is clear legal regulations, but disagreement and indecision are hallmarks of the politicians responsible in Brussels.

The environment and, in the final analysis, mankind will be the losers. How paradoxical, given that new statutory ceilings under consideration but not by any means yet passed are already outmoded long before they have been approved.

Norbert Mittnacht

(Mannheimer Morgen, 21 August 1987)

■ THE THEATRE

Full houses for the biggest names in little companies

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

The fourth international Sommertheater in Hamburg attracted big names among small drama companies from all over the world.

Attendances were up 30 per cent and 90 per cent of the performances over the four weeks were sellouts.

The Sommertheater is now the largest festival for independent companies in Germany. It is held in the Kampnagelfabrik which, for 100 years was occupied by a crane manufacturer.

Thirty-five groups from West Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Poland, South Africa and Japan performed. There were 90 performances offering a wide range of entertainment of all kinds, different from the kind of theatre put on by state-subsidised theatres.

The groups are more experimental, innovative, less riddled with red-tape, more flexible, more political, pluckier in fact because of their very independence.

They regard themselves as the standard bearers of an anti-establishment theatre.

Dance theatre contributions included the Senegalese dancer, Elsa Wolliaston, who lives in Paris; Ultima Vez and Rosas from Belgium; the Butoh dancer, Carlotta Ikeda, from Japan; and Adriana Boriello from Italy.

This alternative theatre also included political theatre from South Africa, the terrific scene-changes of the Polish group Teatr Nowy and the video-opera La Cámera Astratta, a production for this year's *documenta* in Kassel.

The Hamburg festival also included straight plays such as the *Bericht für eine Akademie*, a play by Munich's Franz Xaver Kroetz based on Franz Kafka; and the *Ode an das Unmögliche*, a play from Munich's Kammerspiel which includes the severely handicapped actor Peter Radke, a Kampnagel production that was much to be praised. This last production did show that the festival was not entirely involved in "independent" theatre.

The action company from Catalonia, La Fura dels Baus, was a very different thing from straight theatre, wild in fact, as was the amusingly-daring mixture of video, dance, theatre and Shakespeare put on by the Belgian Needcompany.

Alternative dance theatre, more commonly called modern dance, supported by fairly traditional jazz dancing, was not so new. The things worth seeing, even for fans of modern dance theatre, were the non-European elements that disregard local tradition and surprise with their new ideas.

This was the case with Elsa Wolliaston, whose production *Privilèges au sous-sol des âmes errantes* opened the festival.

Wolliaston did the choreography for this piece herself. The three dancers met and lose each other in a complicated set of meetings and partings. Eventually they come together in that "underground of the fickle soul," but at the same time, hardly having come together, they seek to get away from each other again.

This was an eternal human theme, embedded in African rhythms with criss-crossing and sometimes a kind of shoving movement.

Then there was Carlotta Ikeda's dumb scream that echoed in the ear, *Chii Sako*, the ghost of a small girl. Butoh dancer Ikeda goes through the myths, dreams and the world of her childhood, held fast by almost unbearable motionlessness until she breaks out into dance movements.

Elsa Wolliaston and Carlotta Ikeda will both be appearing in *Theater '87* in Hanover in September. They are among the most well-known of independent dance company performers.

Like most of the artists who appeared at the Hamburg festival they are professionals with years of experience behind them. There is nothing amateur about them.

This is also true of the four young women in the Rosas group, who, with their Bartók/Aantekeningen, produced perhaps the most exciting performance to be seen at the festival.

The choreography, by Anna Teresa de Keersmaeker, was precise and down-to-earth, danced to Bartok's Fourth String Quartet, augmented by fragments of text by Peter Weiss and Georg Büchner.

These independent companies were lined up to violate sacrosanct state-subsidised drama long before state-operated theatres decided to write this into *their programmes*.

The independents want to be the mouthpiece for the man in the street, whom they encounter in street theatre. They take the part of the weak, seek for a language that is not only understood by a privileged circle of the initiated.

There was no mourning for the rigid forms of agitprop theatre, rather frank involvement was welcomed, the spirit of opposition.

In the main the hazards run by these independent companies emerged rather in the productions themselves than in the content. Independent theatre is less radical than its reputation, and as a consequence more élitist than its opponents in particular accuse it of being.

Most of them have little attraction for political theatre. To them the idea that every theatre is political is rather like retreating on to the safe ground of aesthetics.



Biblical similes . . . *Gebet eines Kranken*, by the Teatr Novy, Posnan. (Photo: Kampnagel Sommertheater)

Drama fantasy was transformed into a box of tricks in *Il ladro di anime* (Theft of the souls) by the Compagnia teatrale di Georgio Barberio Corsetti.

In a series of quickly changing, colourful scenes a journey is described from a big-city port to a tenement house. The story depicts life passing from the trouble-free to the hectic, a surrealistic spectacle wrapped up in the music of Daniel Bacalov.

This is theatre to be seen. There is fun in it, fresh and carefree.

The images that the Teatr Novy Poznan provide are quite different, powerful and ghastly. This group is led by Izabella Cywinska. It is a Polish theatre group that receives state support but with few or no conditions attached.

The *Gebiet eines Kranken vor der Nacht* tells the story of the Biblical simile of the Prodigal Son in quick-changing scenes. The Bible episode is caricatured in satirical statues with over 40 actors on a picture-frame stage making up the important and unimportant servants of the powerful.

They are inexorable, driven ahead through a collage of live music and tape recordings that repeat the theme of the Polish folk song "Panna Anna."

Although this is a theatre company that depends on scenic effects with the individual actors used rather like marionettes, director Janusz Wisniewski does not do without dialogue altogether, but concedes to the central character the role of droll story-teller.

The meaning was still there even through the form was alien. (The public at the German première had a difficult time any way because the translator was ill.)

Despite all there was some highly imaginative political theatre. Many visitors came to the festival particularly for this, demonstrated by the rush for the performances by the two South African groups, Earth Players and Vusisizwe.

They have already performed their plays, *Bopha* and *You strike the woman, you strike the rock*, prepared in cooperation with the Johannesburg Market Theatre, at *Theater der Welt '87* in Stuttgart. There was just as much applause for them in Hamburg as there.

This simple, stark theatre company was something completely different to the often sophisticated sets and highly specialised technical facilities of many other groups. But it showed that the difference betwee North-South did not stop at theatre. The South African actors were convincing through their sheer delight in performing and the wit with which they pilloried the absurdities of the apartheid system.

Bopha (Arrest) by Percy Mtwa made the senselessness of the pass laws risible. It showed the conflicts into which Blacks can fall if they allow themselves to become policemen within the apartheid system devised by the Whites.

You strike the woman, you strike the rock is a play for women, a debate with dual discrimination.

The location of the action is the marketplace in a South African township, where the women, one after another, tell of themselves, accompanying their stories with song and dance.

Their statements and manner of speech lost a little of their directness in the cool atmosphere of Kampnagel factory halls, but the audience was delighted by the rhythmic dancing and singing of the three women.

The alternative theatre that people found in the the simplicity of the South African plays or in the abstract forms of the dance theatre was not so obvious an element in the "wild ones" of the Catalan group La Fura dels Baus, that created a furore last year.

The action play *Suz/O/Suz* was an inferno of blood and violence, wild and roaring, a feast of horror, big-city theatre, male theatre.

A sense of disgust and anxiety is quickly reduced to nothing. People who were delighted by the group in last year's Sommertheater by *Accions* would only turn up their nose just a little at the remains that are to be found in Hamburg's abattoir after this year's production. Contempt for the audience is a

Continued on page 15



■ COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping aloft the coloured balloons

Arthur Brauner has produced 250 films since CCC-Film GmbH was founded in 1946.

He claims to be the largest private film producer in Europe and the first to have worked in cooperation with foreign producers.

Atze Brauner (the change of name is an accolade accorded him by the film business) was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1918. His father was a Jewish timber wholesaler.

He decided to go into films early in life although originally he had ideas of becoming an actor or a composer. He fled from Poland in 1939 and, after a series of adventures, began anew in Berlin.

He was co-producer of the first German film in the immediate post-war period at "Studio-Film-45-GmbH."

He worked and financed his first film through his newly formed CCC-Film, operating in a former Spandau poison gas factory which he converted into a film studio.

He said of his first film that it was "an off-the-peg production," amusing, entertaining, in the cinema today, gone tomorrow.

In several good years he handled three or four films at the same time. How did he manage it?



German film industry is in a crisis, says Brauner. (Photo: Archives)

He said: "It was hard work, a tireless creative process with the sole intention of never giving up."

Asked which of his films was his best he answered without hesitation: "Der brave Soldat Schwejk." It was a big commercial success and was awarded the Golden Globe in America as best foreign film.

Brauner has handled every kind and type of film, successful re-makes of old UFA films, prestige films, historical films and films based on great works of literature, social and drawing-room dramas, crime and adventure films.

Brauner, an old master, would be seen in a false light if he were to keep quiet about his sophisticated films. To mention just a few: *Die Ratten*, with Maria Schell and Curd Jürgens, *Der Teufel in Seide* with Lilli Palmer, *Mädchen in Uniform* with Romy Schneider and *Es geschah am hellichten Tag* with Heinz Rühmann.

He also produced several ambitious politico-artistic films such as *Morituri* (a drama about refugees) and *Der 20. Juli*, an historical reconstruction.

Brauner has also produced any number of films that other producers would not have dared to take on and not just because they would not have been good box-office.

Brauner's son, Sammy, will in all probability take over the management of CCC-Filmkunst GmbH und Co KG (as it has been known since 1971). This will be no easy inheritance for over 90 per cent of the films screened in West Germany are imported.

Arthur Brauner puts this down to the crisis in the German film industry. He said: "We have too few good writers...We have five good directors, Wenders, Schlöndorff, Petersen, Herzog and Schenkel."

He continued: "The others are good, some relatively very good but not good enough internationally. We must go in for co-productions more so that we can bring in foreign artists."

At present, in cooperation with the Hungarian state film organisation, he is producing a large-scale film entitled *Hanussen*.

The main actor is Austria's Klaus Maria Brandauer, directed by Istvan Szabó. It is a prestige film in colour. The estimated production costs are between eight and nine million marks.

The film will be shot in Hungary and West Germany. Studio shots will be made at CCC studios.

Brauner, who has seven other projects in preparation, is regarded as a clever and tough businessman. He hopes that the new film will be a great success.

It is a more or less true story about the legendary clairvoyant Hanussen, who until the beginning of the 1930s ensured that every appearance he made was spectacular.

Brandauer plays Hanussen who was eliminated by the Nazis in 1933, allegedly after he had predicted the burning down of the Reichstag in Berlin.

Seven writers have been working on the book, one after another, for five years. Szabó took on an eighth writer and produced a final script.

He said that it is hoped that his film will be successful, and not only his film but the German film generally.

Frank Sinatra once asked Brauner: What is success? Brauner replied: "I'll tell you because I've had some success. Success is like a coloured balloon under children with needles."

Arno Helfenstein
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 August 1987)

High stakes for a multi-media conglomerate

Munich film dealer Leo Kirch thinks that the media group of the future will be a conglomerate combining newspapers with the electronic media along the lines of Rupert Murdoch, or Robert Hersant in France or Silvio Berlusconi in Italy.

He sees his best way of fulfilling this multi-media vision as stepping up his interest in the Springer group, West Germany's huge media concern.

Axel Springer Verlag AG has a 35 per cent stake in the company which provides news for a German satellite consortium, SAT 1, which distributes programmes over cable networks. Kirch wants more influence at Springer, and therefore at SAT 1, regardless of the financial price.



Springer holds key to the business, says Kirch. (Photo: Heinz Gebhardt)

Kirch has 10 per cent of Springer and plans to increase this to at least 25 per cent. This has driven up Springer shares and has brought a sharp reaction from the Burda brothers, Franz and Frieder, who hold about 25 per cent of Springer through their publishing company. They strongly oppose Kirch's vision of the new media giant.

It is estimated that it will cost Kirch 400 million marks to increase his stake in Springer, and his opponents don't believe he will be able to raise that amount.

Kirch is the biggest distributor of films and other programmes to television companies in West Germany.

His Taurus-Film GmbH has almost 15,000 American and European films on its shelves, enough for 50,000 hours of viewing.

He is a fan of classics and the opera and another firm, Beta-Film, specialises in concert, opera and ballet programmes. Kirch is not just a distributor, he also produces programmes and his music production subsidiary, Unitel, holds exclusive rights to such people as Herbert von Karajan and Leonard Bernstein.

In 1986, the group had a turnover of 600 million marks and a payroll of 600.

Kirch, 61, was born in Würzburg. His father was a Franconian wine-grower.

He qualified in business administration and says he got into the film business

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

only by accident. At the end of the 1950s, he saw that television was going to have a stronger and stronger influence over people's leisure habits, so he offered the channels what they could not produce themselves: films.

He first major coup was buying a package of 400 films from United Artists and Warner Brothers away from under the noses of hesitating buyers from the ARD channel, although he knew that he could probably only interest the networks in the 75 most interesting of the 400.

That deal put Kirch at the top of the list among the rights buyers as far as American producers were concerned.

His films are taken by ARD; the ZDF channel; and the private channnel, SAT 1. He admits that there are 99 bad films for every good one he handles.

Now Kirch's rise stands before a probable high point. It remains to be seen if this will be the forerunner to his all-media vision.

Matthias Stapf
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 August 1987)

■ MEDICINE

More cash needed for drive against cancer in Europe

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Seventy million people will die of cancer in Europe over the next 20 years, according to medical estimates.

Already one European in four gets cancer at some stage. If the trend continues, it will be one in three by the turn of the century.

The 12 Common Market Health Ministers have met in Brussels to endorse a three-year European Community cancer action programme to fight the disease, which is second only to heart and circulatory complaints as a cause of death.

Yet, although the ministers backed the programme proposed by the European Commission, they have not agreed on one crucial issue: money.

The Commission says roughly DM44m is needed for publicity, special staff training and research. But the total promised amounts to only DM20m.

Whether member-governments will go ahead with all 75 cancer activities proposed by Brussels is more than doubtful.

The main ideas mooted by the European Commission are unquestionably unpopular and thus politically full of problems.

As envisaged by the Commission, the European cancer campaign will first and foremost be an anti-smoking campaign.

Cancer, or so an advisory council of highly-qualified research scientists set up by the Commission in 1986 to draft proposals argues, is no-one's destiny.

It is, they say, the result of how you live, of how you work and of environmental factors. Cancer can, moreover, often be prevented or cured.

Surveys in the United States are said to have shown Mormons and Seventh-Day Adventists to be 50-per-cent less prone to cancer than other Americans of their age, sex and profession. Both are teetotallers. They neither drink nor smoke.

Cancer research in recent decades makes it seem fairly clear that the disease is largely due to external factors, such as eating, drinking and smoking habits, and these are what the European Community programme must aim to change.

Cancer research scientists agree that nicotine is the No. 1 enemy. Cigarette, cigar and tobacco smoke contains over 40 carcinogenic substances.

Smokers who inhale the smoke of 20 cigarettes a day run a cancer risk 20 times greater than that of someone who smokes one cigarette a day.

And even a one-cigarette-a-day person is 20-per-cent likelier to suffer from cancer than a non-smoker.

Non-smokers in turn suffer from "passive smoking," or inhaling the smoke from other people's cigarettes, which is said to be to blame for one lung cancer case in three among non-smokers.

Cancer researchers say the first step is to get people to smoke less. That is the aim of the European Community.

No-one in Brussels is naive enough to imagine that common sense might prevail overnight. Cancer statistics that tell a clear tale are still not going to persuade smokers to give up the habit.

So the aim is to make it harder and more expensive to smoke. The Community plans to use its powers in the internal market, of common agricultural policy and of consumer protection.

Tobacco duties vary widely within the Community. In Greece, for instance, the tax on a packet of cigarettes is a mere 50 pfennigs and 20 low-priced cigarettes cost just over DM1.

In puritan, Protestant Denmark, where the health service and social welfare system are financed by direct and indirect taxation rather than by personal contributions, cigarettes and tobacco are taxed to the hilt. Twenty cigarettes cost roughly DM7.50 in Denmark, of which over DM5 is tax.

The European Commission is strongly in favour of the Danish approach which, in a nutshell, is that people who are determined to ruin their health must be made to pay for the privilege.

The Commission favours a harmonisation of tobacco duties, with the general objective of charging higher taxes in countries where, in comparison, tobacco duties are still low. The higher revenue, Eurocrats argue, should be used to finance cancer research and other campaign activities. And that is *but the second of a package of proposals.*

High-tar cigarettes, they say, should be banned. All cigarette packets must carry both a clear health warning and a detailed list of the harmful substances the cigarettes contain.

Cigarettes and tobacco must no longer be sold to children. Cigarette advertising must be totally banned, including indirect advertising via sports sponsorship.

Regulations must be introduced and enforced about smoking at work so non-smokers are not forced to inhale tobacco smoke.

If these guidelines and regulations are effectively enforced and serve their purpose of making smokers sick and tired of smoking, smokers' lungs will benefit — as will other organs cancer can affect.

But over 230,000 tobacco farmers stand to be hard hit, many of whom live in the poorer parts of southern Europe where unemployment is highest.

Tobacco growers, the Commission says, must gradually change over to less harmful varieties or, preferably, grow fruit and vegetables instead. Farmers will be sceptical, given the existing glut of fruit and vegetables in the European Community.

The Commission wants to persuade European consumers to eat more fruit, vegetables and high-fibre foodgrains.

The aim is less to reduce Europe's farm surpluses of these products than to improve public health. A high-vitamin diet rich in fibre and ballast helps to keep cancer at bay.

The three-year action programme is planned for 1987-89. This year will in all probability end before the campaign can get going.

The European Parliament must outline its views on the subject before the campaign can get under way, and then member-governments will need to reach agreement on details that have yet to be clarified.

They are unlikely to get down to the small print before December.

Thomas Gack

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22 August 1987)

10,000 medical damages claims a year

About 10,000 medical damages claims a year are handled by German liability insurers, says Rainer Hess, legal adviser to the *Bundesärztekammer* (General Medical Council).

It applies to all sectors of the medical profession, so no inferences can be drawn as to deaths due to medical treatment or where the error for which damages were claimed took place — in hospital, at a doctor's surgery or at a sanatorium.

Medical mishaps of this kind are not centrally registered in Germany. Statistics are kept by insurance companies, by the public prosecutors, the courts and medical arbitration panels.

Statistically speaking, between two and two and a half people die for every 10,000 cases in which anaesthetics are administered.

So the number and frequency of complications and fatalities occurring in this connection have declined drastically over the past decade.

Or so says Siegfried Piepenbrock, head of anaesthesiology at Hanover medical college. The ratio was a mere one in 50,000 for patients in generally good health.

"These figure are low when you bear in mind that more and more old people undergo surgery, inevitably running a higher risk than younger people by virtue of their many minor complaints," says Professor Opderbecke, general secretary of the German Society for Anaesthesiology and Intensive Medicine.

He says: "New sectors in surgery and

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'Bank For Own Blood' capitalises on growing fear of Aids

When Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, goes on tour his luggage now includes a sealed metal box containing deep-frozen blood of his own for use in an emergency.

The aim is to avoid running the risk of getting a transfusion with Aids-infected blood.

The simple, medical truth by which he is guided applies in equal measure to blue blood and to the commoner's red variety. It is: "Your own blood is the safest."

A Düsseldorf businessman, Daniel Katz, sees this simple slogan as a chance of cornering a share of a market wide open to be exploited.

He started trading in July under the name "Bank für Eigenblut," or Bank for Own Blood, and claims his is the first private facility of its kind on the Continent.

Blood donor services dislike the idea. "Trading on anxiety," says Dr Harald Fiedler of Münster, spokesman for Red Cross blood donor services in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The risk of Aids infection via a blood transfusion is no greater than that of dying while on holiday in the Black Forest, he says.

The latest risk study commissioned by the German Society for Transfusion Medicine and Haematology puts the risk at one in a million.

In the past two years 36 million blood transfusions were given all over the world. Five patients were infected with Aids.

The glossy brochure of the "Bank für Eigenblut," which is managed by medics, conveys an entirely different impression.

It warns against a catalogue of disadvantages arising from transfusions of blood other than your own, ranging from Aids and hepatitis infection to leukaemia, cancer and fever or allergies.

Potential "account-holders" are reminded of the dreadful fate of 6,000 haemophiliacs in the Federal Republic, over half of whom have contracted Aids from blood transfusions.

"Where operations can be planned ahead," says Wolfgang Müller, spokesman for a group of medical research associations in Düsseldorf, "donating one's own blood can make sense."

Two months before surgery you can start by donating half a litre of your own blood, progressively topping up your "account" until you have three litres on "deposit."

"Most hospitals are now prepared to adopt this procedure," Müller says.

At the Bergmannsheil Hospital in Bochum four out of five patients are given transfusions of their own blood during surgery. The hospital's Dr Tryba says over two thirds of the blood previously bought from donor services is now no longer needed.

Professor Norbert Müller, head of Münster University department of transfusion medicine, adds a warning note that donations of the patient's own blood are only advisable when he or she is in generally good health.

Yet he admits that much keener interest has been shown in the idea since the New Year in the wake of the Aids scare.

Blood donated in advance of a specific operation is one approach. Another is a long-term donation, stored for good against a future contingency.

Deep-frozen blood is stored in liquid nitrogen at -196° C. Few hospitals have this storage facility, which is where the Düsseldorf "bank" sees its market opening.

It charges DM16.80 a month, or DM9.80 from the second year, for storing a pint of blood. Adults are advised to store two to four pints.

They pay the storage fee themselves. Health insurance schemes will only pay for blood donated in advance of operations.

Herr Katz will hear nothing of accusations that he is trading on anxiety. "I provide people with what they want," he says.

He refers to the United States, where cold storage of people's own blood has been a flourishing business for years.

Gerd Niewerth

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 15 August 1987)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Water authorities use fleas as pollution detectors

Water fleas are being used by the North Rhine-Westphalian authorities to trace toxins in the catchment area of the Rhine.

The yellowish-brown fleas, between one and three millimetres long, test river water round the clock at measuring stations of the *Land* Water and Waste Office (LWA) in Kleve, on the Dutch border, and in Bad Honnef, on the border with the Rhineland-Palatinate.

Biologists and chemists observe how the fleas (botanical name: Daphnia) move.

There are 20 of them in each measuring device and they are monitored by a system of light traps. Light sensors sound the alarm if the fleas either start rushing madly around or become lethargic. In both cases the water passing through the measuring station probably contains a toxic substance.

In Bad Honnef, 640km downstream, Hans-Günter Willemsen, 35, the officer in charge, registered roughly 100 cases in which the water fleas reacted unusually last year.

They included the spectacular accidents at Sandoz, the Swiss pharmaceutical firm near Basle, and BASF, the German chemical company in Ludwigshafen, and several minor cases.

But they did not respond in a recent case where micro-organic life died in water from the Upper Rhine. It is thought some other form of pollution was the cause.

Variations in findings may; for instance, be due to the weather. "We must view these findings with the utmost caution," Willemsen says, "as we must with all biological measuring systems.

"Yet even so, we feel sure there are many more unreported cases of chemical pollution of the Rhine than ever come to light."

The fleas were hired in the first place by the LWA's Joachim Knie, a 44-year-old biologist who devised the "dynamic daphnia test." It is dynamic in that the fleas work in running water rather than still water.

Fleas, Dr Knie says, are ideal "bio-indicators." They are available all the year round. They show measurable responses. They are easily bred and extremely sensitive to toxins.

"Since last year's major accidents they have been working flat out," he says, "and the firm that manufactures the test equipment has been bombarded with enquiries."

Fish also serve as pollution testers in Bad Honnef. They are ides, also known as orfes, and are about four inches long.

They live in an environment of flowing Rhine water on which they feed. Every ten minutes a small pump creates a current. If the fish immediately swim against the current — and are strong enough to stay put — all is well.

If they are swept back and collide more than once with a measuring device the alarm is sounded. The inference drawn is that the Rhine water is polluted. The chemists are called in.

Biological tests using fleas and fish are only a small, but important part of the measuring stations' work.

A constant watch is kept on water temperature, oxygen count, acidity and electrical conductivity.

In combination with the chloride count the latter indicates salt content. "We know immediately when the potash mines in Alsace clock off for the weekend and when the French have a public holiday like Bastille Day," Willemsen says, pointing to a chart showing a zigzag pattern of salt count fluctuations.

Costly chemical and radiological laboratories are at work to analyse the toxins identified biologically should theneed arise.

"If speed is the essence," Willemsen says, "we can fly our samples and findings by police helicopter to head office for a mass spectrometer test."

LWA research scientists are constantly working on improvements to their measuring techniques so as to be ready to cope with emergencies or to sound the alarm if no-one else has done so.

They are currently experimenting with a fully automatic test device that takes constant water samples and stores them for a prearranged length of time.

This device, suitably sealed, could be fitted to works drainage systems, arguably with an automatic alarm attached.

An immediate alarm would save time often wasted at present in the search for where a toxin originated. Like the tachograph, or lorry-driver's "spy in the cab," it could be checked — to see what substances have been pumped into the river.

Ulrich Hermanski

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 2 September 1987)

Slime mould at top pace. (Photo: AP)

Cancer research may be helped by a sprinting slime mould

Physarum polycephalum, a giant slime mould bred in Bonn, was the largest single-cell organism ever grown.

Its full size was ten square metres. It has since shrunk to a volume of 300 millilitres and is stored deep-frozen in a Bonn University freezer.

The Bonn research scientists presented their gigantic creation to the public before putting it on ice. It was bright yellow and about two millimetres thick, neither a plant nor an animal.

"About 450 varieties occur in nature, especially in warm and humid areas of China and Egypt," says Rolf Stiemerling of the Bonn University department of cytology and micromorphology.

Under natural conditions slime mould seldom grows to more than 30cm in diameter.

Bonn University research scientists have specialised in slime mould for over 20 years. Fifty PhD theses have been or are being written on the subject.

Dr Stiemerling was the first, submitting the first PhD thesis on Physarum polycephalum in 1966.

The size of the record-breaking fungus came as no surprise to him. It was hard work but he expected no other outcome.

If the experiment had not been abandoned the fungus could have grown endlessly, given the right conditions.

All it needed was a humid surface heated to 24° C and a regular diet of porridge.

Dr Stiemerling says the fungus can smell and taste its favourite food and even move toward it and encircle it — at a speed of up to two centimetres an hour.

A far more important point is, as he sees it, the possibility of evaluating the findings to make substantial headway in protein research and basic research on cells.

If scientists succeed in exactly tracing the development of this gigantic single-cell organism, he feels the findings could be extremely useful for cancer research.

Giant slime mould's protoplasm moves at a speed of one millimetre per second, or 10 times faster than in the fastest vegetable cell and 50 times faster than in comparable animal cells.

Cancer cells are fast movers too. Physarum research findings might, he says, convey some idea of how to influence the movements of cancer cells.

He has a wide range of other experiments and analyses to conduct on his giant fungus. Its special feature is that it can hibernate, as it were, in unfavourable conditions such as low temperatures in the freezer.

Whenever the need arises it can be thawed and stimulated in a matter of hours to grow again.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 1 September 1987)

■ KALEIDOSCOPE

Statistics reveal that family life is a dangerous form of existence

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

More than every second murder and manslaughter case in 1986 involved crimes where the criminal was either related to or well-known to the victim, says Uwe Dörmann, director of the BKA, the Federal criminal investigation bureau.

Last year, he said, when the correlation between family, acquaintances and crime was for the first time investigated, there were 2,924 cases of murder, attempted murder or manslaughter. The police found that in 1,724 cases where the offender was found, he or she was either related or acquainted with the victim.

These figures would seem to back up an assumption by many crime experts that in the family is one of the most dangerous places to be.

Of the 933 people who last years died through murder or manslaughter, a third were victims of relatives in the sense of the law. De facto partners were not even counted, otherwise the rate would have been even higher.

Professor Hans-Joachim Schneider, of Münster University, says: "The danger lies outside. The family is the safe refuge — that's how it is usually presented. In reality, however, the family is, particularly for women, a dangerous place."

The risk that women will be killed within the family is twice as high for women as for men. An experienced senior policeman says that abandoned men go off the deep end much quicker than abandoned women. Often, separation is the signal for violence.

Professor Schneider says that most of the time a crime happens in an outburst after a long conflict in which feelings have been bottled up. It happens especially often in cases where a family lives alone and there are no relations to help quieten things down."

Often, alcohol removes the last barriers. The offender in every second case of manslaughter is drunk.

Every year from now on, figures are be broken down so that family-and-friend crime statistics can be seen, but there are weaknesses. The unknown cases in the family and among people who know each other are thought to be especially high: in many cases, violence is reported but not evidence about the offender.

Because of this and also because of the great amount of work involved, at the moment it has been decided not to investigate the connection between victims and offenders in the fields of theft, burglary and false pretences.

A senior police officer says that in many cases where a person survives a crime of violence, charges are not laid where the offender is a relative or known to the victim.

That is also why the proportion of offenders from among relatives or acquaintances in cases where people die from crimes of violence is much higher than can be extrapolated from the investigations.

Other revealing figures from 1986: two thirds of child-abuse crimes were committed by relatives; every third rape victim was a victim of a relative or person well-known; in another 18 per cent of rape cases, victim and offender knew each other at least fleetingly; in 39 per cent of cases, victim and offender had never seen each other before, which shows that the crime is often one of coincidence.

In 60 per cent of armed robbery cases, victim and criminal did not know each other before. But for armed robbery in the home, that figure was only 30 per cent.

These figures will enable police to develop new approaches to investigation. When the statistics have been collected and collated over a period of years and and deductions made, it should be possible to better ascertain what people and under what circumstances are prone to become victims and what they can do to minimise the risks.

Horst Zimmermann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 August 1987)



Flash Harry . . . Richard Riediger with one of his bolts of lightning. (Photo: Top Press)

Conjugal jail visits proposed

No one disputes that long-term prisoners can have serious sexual problems, says Roman Catholic prison padre Theo Schwerdt. He was referring to renewed discussions about the problem and the possibility of arrangements for wives to visit prisons.

The North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Justice is, at the request of the legal affairs committee of the *Land* assembly, investigating if and how intimacy between prisoners and their spouses might be arranged. The examples of Spain, Holland and the Scandinavian countries are often quoted. In these countries there are special "visiting cells."

But Dieter Wendorff, a spokesman for the Ministry of Justice, gave a warning. He had seen in Holland "windowless bunkers with beds" and said that the entire issue was redolent with matters of human dignity and ethics and that these must be paramount.

This was quite apart from security aspects. Under certain circumstances, conjugal visits might have to be followed by body searches.

Schwerdt also says that dignity should be the most important aspect of such visits. The idea should be pursued with the the greatest of care and discretion. To avoid "massive problems," he wants the visits at first to be restricted to married couples. This was only realistic in view of the "great resistance" that is likely to be encountered.

Already, prison staff had approached him "with unpublishable remarks." Prison staff tended to be conservative. The matter had to be handled with great care.

The Ministry should also take note of the objections. The public service and transport union, ÖTV, had already spoken out against the proposals because it feared envy and ill-will from prisoners not taking part.

Axel Görlitz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 22 August 1987)

A part vote for a little silence

Discos are not as popular among the young as is believed. A survey reveals that many find them boring and too expensive. Three quarters of those polled in a BAT leisure research institute complained about the monotony of the programmes offered.

Discos, said many of the respondents, should widen their repertoire to include films, talk shows and competitive games.

But at the same time, many cannot wait to head off for the disco at night. 82 per cent of the 14- and 15-year-olds said they should be allowed to stay in discos until 10 pm (they have to leave the premises at 9pm.)

Almost 90 per cent of the 1,000 respondents from 14 to 19 said the cost of getting in was too high. *dpa*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 13 August 1987)

The lightning collector

Richard Riediger collects bolts of lightning. So far he has 30 of them. He collects them as long, thin fingers called fulgurites, formed when lightning strikes sand at 1,500 degrees Centigrade, melts the grains and turns them into glass. The process is called vitrification

Riediger, 54, who comes from Ubach-Palenberg, near Aachen, says the biggest fulgurite in his collection is two metre long. It is also the biggest found in Germany. He needed four hours to get it out of the quarz sand in heathland near his home. He carefully laid the fragile fulgurite, which looks much like a bolt of lightning, in four parts and wrapped them in cotton wool to be transported. At his home, he reassembled them. Riediger's hobby helps scientists find out what effect lightning has when it strikes.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 22 Aug. 1987)

Classes to help people beat fear of flying

When the doors of the jet are closed and the motors burst into action and the stewardesses read out the safety regulations, many passengers get a funny feeling in the stomach.

A Berlin psychologist, Manfred Neumann, estimates that every fifth passenger is afraid of flying and that at least 80 per cent feel uneasy when the enter an aircraft.

Social worker Cornelia Gano, 30, is one of those who gets a pounding heart and sweating hands when she flies. She says the feeling begins when she arrives at the airport buildings. "That's when I ask myself why I even booked a flight."

Neumann runs classes to help people defeat their fear of flying. He runs them for an American carrier. He has found that women talk about their fear of flying, men less so. But men's anxieties manifest themselves in special ways.

"Stewardesses say that men are likely to behave aggressively and condescendingly as if to say to the stewradess: I was flying when you were in nappies."

Why are people afraid of flying? Neumann says one of the causes is "negative experiences, for examples with traffic accidents." Another can be fear of "loss of control." The latter cause, says Neumann, affects more often people who are in positions of decision making such as managers.

Sigrid Stiegelmair, of PanAm, says most passengers have the feeling of being at the mercy of the elements. "They don't have a steering wheel in the hand, like with a car."

She has been a stewardess for 16 years and says that not once in that time has she seen examples where passengers have let their fear get the better of them. Practically all of them fight and get it under control.

But stewardesses know. Years of experience have taught them how passengers hide their fear. Airline employees prefer it when passengers say at the check-in counter that they are afraid. Those who do say, maintains Frau Stiegelmair, are usually treated in an especially friendly manner.

But what happens if cabin staff are affected by fear? Frau Stiegelmair say that in her experience, there is so much work to do that there isn't any time to be afraid.

But "there are some cases when it becomes so turbulent and cabin staff must take their seats and fasten their safety belts that sometimes a stewardess will feel unnerved."

For people such as politicians and businessmen who must fly regularly and who hate it, there are courses to help.

Neumann: "We bring clients on step by step with the help of training to rid themselves of tension."

The reasons for the fear can be so confused or awkward that some people can often be helped only by long-term treatment. In these cases, Neumann recommends discussion therapy.

Angelika Kleeblatt

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 15 August 1987)

■ SOCIETY

Public view of technology in decline since moon landing

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Public opinion about the march of technology has changed dramatically. In 1966 a big majority, 72 per cent, felt technology was a blessing, not a bane. In 1984, only 32 per cent did.

The attitude of the media toward technology has changed markedly over the past 20 years too.

Between 1965 and 1970 technology was unreservedly accepted by the media, with the high in 1969 when the Americans landed on the Moon.

Between 1970 and 1975 a change set in, with fundamental criticism in 1971-72 being followed by a short reversion to a positive outlook in 1974, followed from 1975 to 1986 by a growing tendency toward criticism.

Oddly enough, the quantity of media coverage has increased a lot over this period. In 1986 technological topics were the subject of roughly twice as many articles and were assessed roughly three to four times more often as in the first half of the 1970s.

Both individual technological projects and technological progress as a whole have been seen in increasingly negative terms over the past 15 years, with objections being more marked on the left wing of the political spectrum than on the right.

In the 1960s the press mainly stressed the benefits of technology. In the 1980s it tended to emphasise side-effects, actual and possible damage that might be done.

"The publicistic technology euphoria of the 1960s has changed into a publicistic technology phobia of the 1980s," says Professor Hans Mathias Kepplinger of Mainz University department of publicistics.

He and Rainer Mathes are the authors of The Portrayal of Technology in Newspapers and Magazines in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1965 to 1986.

Their findings were presented at a conference in the Bonn Science Centre by the Battelle Institute, Frankfurt, and the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology.

In special reports consideration was given to how specific technological events had been reflected in the media over four-week periods.

They were the US landing on the Moon in 1969, the Seveso chemical accident in 1976, the Harrisburg reactor accident in 1979 and the July-August 1983 debate on the introduction of computerised ID cards in Germany.

At the Bonn conference opinion pollster Professor Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann and sociologist Jochen Hansen presented Allensbach market research findings on acceptance of technology from 1966 to the present.

They found that German dislike of swift technological progress increased markedly between 1970 and 1981, from 49 to 69 per cent, since when it has remained fairly steady.

Overall personal attitudes toward technology, evaluated on a scale between +5 ("I feel technology is great") and -5 ("I abhor technology"), also plummeted from 1.9 to 1.5 between 1981 and 1987.

Yet even in 1981 the idea that job security depended on technological progress enjoyed a very low rating (eighth place) among factors considered to be of influence.

At the same time the general outlook on acceptance has improved, disregarding personal opinion on, say, computers.

In 1982 a mere 27 per cent felt tendentially in favour of computers; in 1986 46 per cent were of this opinion.

The proportion of people prepared to run certain risks in harnessing technological developments has remained unchanged at 45 per cent in 1981 and 1987.

Belief in progress, which declined steadily from 56 to 27 per cent between 1967 and 1982, has gradually gained ground since the early 1980s, now standing at 37 per cent again.

On eight occasions between 1955 and 1987 Allensbach pollsters have sampled German public opinion on what subjects most interest newspaper readers.

In the 1950s science and technology most interested 24 per cent. In 1987 this figure was down to 22 per cent.

Trends registered by other market research institutes in the Federal Republic confirm the growing scepticism toward technology noted in the Mainz survey, Noelle-Neumann and Hansen said.

These changes are often felt to be a result of realisations about the limits to growth and the threat to the environment, about the need for adjustment to structural changes at work, such as rationalisation and automation, and about the shock of accidents such as Seveso or Harrisburg.

If this is the case, the Allensbach market researchers argue, then similar changes in opinion must have occurred in all other Western industrial countries. But comparison with poll data on technology in these countries does not bear out this assumption.

The findings tend more to indicate that the situation in Germany is a special case, with a characteristic divide between left- and right-wingers on attitudes toward technology.

This divide was reflected in the media analysis. In left-wing publications both individual projects and technological progress as a whole were portrayed in increasingly negative terms and rejected.

Coverage of technology in the mass media was first and foremost a debate on the social, economic and ecological benefits and damage done by technology.

Little or no attention was paid to the problem of our ability to control technical progress, a problem to which great importance is paid in sociological and philosophical criticism of technology.

Renate I. Mreschar

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 15 August 1987)

The theatre

Continued from page 10

short-lived trick that only causes irritation once.

It was said that Sommertheater '87 would be a quality festival of independent groups that rubbed out the dividing lines between state-subsidised theatre companies.

It was noticeable, however, that it was the big names among the small people who were invited, even the very big names, even if the festival did without the really big names, such as Peter Sellars of "Theater der Welt."

Most of these independent companies are no longer deprived rascals. They are a refreshing change to establishment theatre groups rather than a controversial opposition.

When it came to discussion about future financing of the Sommertheater (this year the festival was supported by Hamburg to the tune of DM600,000) people spoke of three aspects of the festival that require varying support: the state theatres, the nationally well-known, professional independent theatre groups and the resident independent groups.

Hamburg's cultural affairs senator, Helga Schuchardt, brought down the wrath of both sides on her head when she demanded the integration of the festival into the current theatre management of Kampnagel. The competition for the meagre funds available is very tough.

The organiser and head of the Sommertheater Dieter Jaenicke is thinking of the possibilities of support, independent of the state, under the name "cultural sponsoring."

The Sommertheater has long become a prestige event for Hamburg, and that is the safest way of guaranteeing that it will continue.

Competition is offered by "Theater der Welt" that comes to Hamburg again in 1989, but until then "the big ones among the small ones" will continue to flourish in the city. *Angelika Ohland*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 23 August 1987)

Combined manoeuvres

Continued from page 4

Lange is convinced that his men would stand a good chance of warding off the first wave of a possible attack, anyway.

He will be making sure during the manoeuvre that his soldiers never feel that they have really been defeated.

The soldiers have been shown video films with information on how to avoid damaging the countryside and taking unnecessary risks.

"We must give the population the feeling that we realise the need to taken its interests into account during a manoeuvre," Lange emphasised.

On the final day of the Cheeky Sparrow manoeuvre the Greens will be staging their own kind of manoeuvre to arouse public interest.

In a campaign called Cheeky Dove they will accompany the meeting between the French president Francois Mitterrand and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Kehlheim.

Together with the French and Austrian Greens, and perhaps some members of Czechoslovakian peace initiatives too, they will protest against the attempts to develop a Franco-German "arms partnership".

A statement by the Greens parliamentary party in the Bundestag pointed out that such a partnership is not what they have in mind to safeguard peace in Europe. *Detlef Puhl*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22 August 1987)

Fewer Germans now, says statistics office

The number of Germans in West Germany, including West Berlin, declined again last year by almost 63,000 to 56.5 million, according to the Federal Statistics Office Yearbook.

The Office's president, Egon Hölder, said in launching the book in Bonn, that the number of people living in the country has increased for the first time in five years, mainly because of foreign immigration (134,000). There are now 4.5 million foreigners in Germany.

There are more old people. Every fourth woman and every sixth man is over 60. About 177,000 are over 90 and two million over 80. There are 10 times as many old people as 100 years ago.

There are three million more women than men in the country.

An appendix compares the two German states. East Germany has a slightly younger population: 23.6 per cent are under 18 compared with 20.1 per cent in West Germany.

In East Germany, 18.4 per cent is over 60. In West Germany and West Berlin it is 20.3 per cent.

The birthrate in East Germany is 13.7 per 1,000 compared with 9.6.

The Yearbook has half a million figures. It provides information on forests and agriculture, home-building, culture, sport, trade and industry and transport.

Farmers have increased grain harvest yields between 1980 and 1986 from 44 to 53 deci-tons per hectare.

Wine-growers last year produced 10 million hectolitres of wine, 12 per cent up on the average over the past five years.

Trade and restaurant figures in 1985, before the census, show that since the previous survey in 1979 the number of wholesaling businesses had increased by 3.4 per cent to 112,000. The number of retailers declined by 0.5 per cent to 404,000.

Home-building has declined. Last year planning and building permission was given for only 219,000 projects, 13 per cent fewer than in 1985.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 22 August 1987)

Medical claims

Continued from page 12

techniques, such as blood vessel surgery, involve older people and other high-risk patients."

The percentage of people who die during or after surgery is static. Advances in anaesthetics have been offset by more operations.

Professor Opderbecke says the public are often confused by the distinction between death under anaesthesia and death due to anaesthesia.

"Most patients who die in the operating theatre do so as a result of serious injuries or incurable diseases and not as a result of error in the administration of anaesthesia."

A recent magazine report claims that German hospital doctors make 12,000 medical errors of judgement a year, including 750 cases in which patients die due to anaesthetic errors.

Both Hess and Opderbecke feel these figures are completely baseless.

Vera Zylka

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 August 1987)